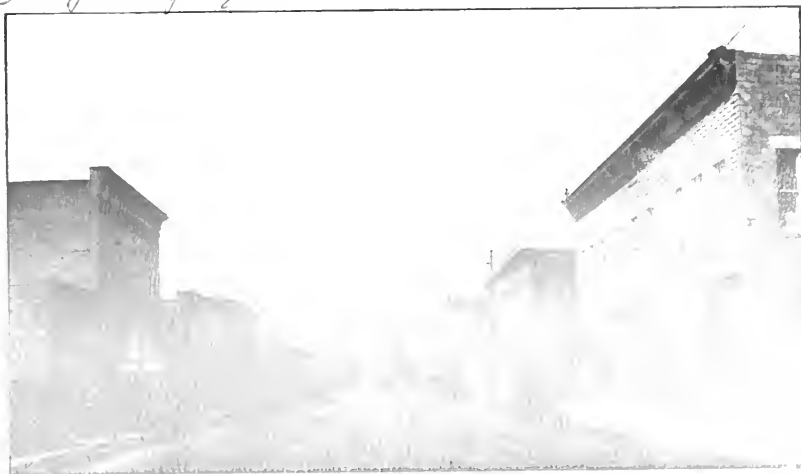


POTOMAC

The Artesian Village

Property of the E. S. Hanna Farming



1876 - 1976

POTOMAC

The Artesian Village



PRINTED BY—

Bluegrass Printing
103 N. Vermilion
Potomac, Illinois 61865

Phone: (217) 987-6655

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Introduction

Our town has pride in its heritage. It has been rewarding to work together to recall our history. People made long distance calls, wrote letters, searched through scrapbooks, albums, and went through abstracts and records. Many contributed articles, notes and histories. Personal histories and pictures came from families written about. We've relied on the memories of many, and we are grateful for all the time people spent with us. The Book Committee appreciates all those who helped or encouraged in any way throughout the months of research and writing.

To the best of our ability, the information presented here is as accurate as possible. There may be discrepancies in some stories because memories are not infallible, and many times records were not available or incorrect. If any names or events have been overlooked, we ask your pardon for our unintentional mistakes. We're thankful to Kathy Collett who checked articles for grammatical errors, and to Jean Davis, Carolyn Howie, Sandra Birt, Rocky Jolley Judy Harrison and Merry Gildersleeve who typed the book copy. A special "thank you" goes to Russell Biggs for getting the ads for the book.

Residents from here have become military leaders, editors, bankers, lawyers, teachers, administrators, authors, nurses, doctors, ministers, business leaders, farmers, civic leaders, and homemakers. This

is home to them.

Although business houses have dwindled in number, this is a pleasant village—900 population. It has been an important part of this area since it began, and today we are still making history.

May you find old friends and neighbors, enjoy the programs, exhibits, parade and pageant planned to tell the story of our town, 1876-1976.

History Chairman—Clarabelle Boggess, Helpers-Nelle Bennett, Helen Burke, Virginia Borror, Margaret Endsley and Nelle Taylor

Centennial Colors—Green and White

Parade Chairman—Alois Clementz, Donald W. Davis

Church Programs—Potomac Ministerial Association

Children's Contest—Chairman-Linda Carter, Helpers-Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Hickman and Mr. & Mrs. James Crawford

Displays and Antiques—Chairman-Mr. & Mrs. Gene Talbot, Helpers-Mr. & Mrs. Truman Spain, Mr. & Mrs. Don Reynolds, and Mr. & Mrs. John Hoskins

Decoration—Roger Fruhling

Publicity—D. D. Phillips

Concessions and Grounds—Lions Club, Boy Scouts, Methodist Church and Women's Clubs

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

General Chairman—Mildred Curtis

Co-Chairman—John Hoskins

Secretary—Ann Duncan

Treasurer—Carolyn Howie

Board Directors—Steve Burroughs, Roger Fruhling,
and Tom Ulmer

We wish to express our sincere thanks to each and every one who made our Centennial the success it was.

The Centennial Committee

Mildred L. Curtis, Chairman

ADVERTISING

Advertising has existed since the earliest trade of the Greeks and Egyptians. Early criers of wares were possessed with agreeable voices and clear speech, even as the radio and T. V. announcers of today. Stone tablets of carved advertising came a-long before print. The advertising structure today ranks among the first businesses in our nation. The people and firms who take care of our needs today, may be found in the pages that follow. The advertisements found here are the final section of our history and are the "who" and the "now" of the entire community of the Potomac area.

INFORMATION

Information has been taken from write-ups from:
 Danville Commercial News
 Potomac Rustler—1893
 Potomac Patrol—1897
 Potomac Record
 Middlefork Journal
 Scrapbooks of Ola Franklin
 Scrapbooks of Lizzie Sollars
 Scrapbooks of Josie Downing
 Prairie Farmer Reliable Directory—1918
 History of Vermilion County, Illinois—Stapp and Bowman
 History of Vermilion County—Lottie Jones, Vol. 1 & 2—1911
 History of Nelle Taylor
 History of Vermilion County, Illinois, Hiram H. Beckworth—1879

THE RUSTLER.

VOL. 14. NO. 32 POTOMAC, ILLINOIS, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1895. 50 CENTS PER YEAR.

No Need to Doubt

for one minute where to buy the best goods for the least money. Go to C. G. Layton's Big Store. See his fine Heating Stoves including Air-tight Heaters, Garland Base Burners, Original Round Oaks, Wood Base Burners. Schoolhouse stoves, etc. Examine our large and well selected stock of Ladies' and Gents' fine shoes, boys' and girl's warranted School shoes, etc. Buy the best flour on earth, that's the Pillsbury's Best, away down in price to make room for other goods.

Everything selling at the very lowest prices. If you doubt it be convinced by purchasing.

Yours Respectfully,
C. G. LAYTON

In the Beginning



Looking out over this area, we see homes and buildings; highways with cars, trucks and school buses. Green fields of corn and beans that turn yellow in the summer sun; loads of corn and beans pouring out of a combine. It is hard to visualize how this country looked when it was unoccupied except for the wild animals and an occasional band of Indians who called this their home. Here the history of a county or village that was more than two centuries in the making cannot be written in a day, nor be told as it should in the limits of our little book.

Our time began in 1828 when the first settlers came to this area from Kentucky. Mr. Partlow and his wife came with their 4 sons and son-in-law Asa Brown. They were all married and had families, and were all earnest members of the Methodist Church. Two were licensed preachers, and were the first ones to make a residence here. To the newcomers this was a most unexpected and disastrous winter. It was recorded that this was the deepest snow ever, the like of which has never been seen here since. The depth of the snow prevented getting around to do anything. Deer, the principal meat-producing game, were easily captured, but they soon became so poor that their meat was not fit to eat. They all lived to bring up families, despite the hardships they had.

At the time of townships' organization it included not only all of Butler township, but all of what is now Ford County, running up to the Kankakee River, and was more than 60 miles long. An early settler, when asked why the rich prairies were so long left vacant replied: "Why! If we had known that anybody could live out there, we would have saved ourselves a great deal of trouble." It was really believed that they would only be of use as pastures for the great heads of cattle that would roam over them.


The streams through the pieces of timber were peculiar in one respect. When first found, they seemed to have worn no channels for the water courses. Every little rain spread them out into great ponds, as it still does in some areas along the Middlefork River today. Wherever there was an obstruction, as a fallen tree, the water poured over and made a deep pond hole, which remained deep the year around. In these deep places large fish were caught. Even today they can still catch large catfish and carp in these holes. The Pottawatomie and Kickapoo Indians had long had a home in the groves of trees in the Bluegrass area. Soon the wagons of the Kentuckians, Virginians and others cut trails over the unbroken prairies. Michael Cook was one of the first to

settle here. He died soon, and was buried in a little graveyard one-half mile from Meneleys Mill on the hill. William Bridges came here in 1830, settled south of Marysville. He resided here 7 years. Mr. Menely, who himself was a millwright, built a saw-mill a little way downstream from Marysville in 1837. He sold it to John Smith (plain), and it burned; Smith rebuilt it and sold it. This is the only water mill ever built in town.

John, Dixon and Hamilton Baily were 3 brothers who settled in 1832 on land where Marysville now stands.

In 1835, a county road was established through Rossville and Bluegrass from the state line west. This was known as the Attica Road.

In 1837, while Danville was making progress, it was a matter of satisfaction that the rest of the county was keeping step. Marysville in Middlefork Township was increasing. Myersville, with Peter Chrisman's Mill, had aspirations. New Years Day—1850, the government census man showed the population of Vermilion County was 11,402, and from all parts of the county there were rosy reports of improved condition of living. Most of the land had been taken up by actual settlers, and there were but few large tracts under single ownership, the exceptions being the Mann estate in Ross, John Smith's (English) and John Goodwine in Middlefork.



Wabash Line

Depot on East Main Street, Danville, Ill.
EAST BOUND.

No. 42, New York Express, daily.....	12:18 a. m.
No. 44 Atlantic Express, daily.....	2:15 p. m.
No. 46 Cannon Ball daily ex Sunday.....	8:40 a. m.
Accommodation freight ex Sunday.....	11:40 a. m.

WEST BOUND.

No. 43 Pacific Express daily.....	1:20 p. m.
No. 43 St. Louis Express daily.....	1:25 a. m.
No. 41 Cannon Ball daily ex Sunday.....	8:40 p. m.
Accommodation freight ex Sunday.....	11:40 a. m.

No. 43 connects at Sidney for Urbana and Champaign.

CHAMPAIGN BRANCH.

No. 81 Express daily ex Sunday.....	8:05 a. m.
No. 82 Express ar daily ex Sunday.....	8:40 p. m.

Nos. 41 and 46 have free reclining chair cars and Pullman Buffet sleeping cars between Toledo and Kansas City through via Hannibal without change.

Nos. 44 and 45 have smoking car coaches reclining chair cars (seats free) and Buffet, Parlor cars between Toledo and St. Louis.

Nos. 42 and 43 have smoking cars and coaches between Toledo Detroit and St. Louis one sleeper St. Louis and New York via Toledo M. C. & N. Y. C. & H. R. R. One sleeper between St. Louis and Boston via Detroit, M. C. West shore and Pittsburgh. Free reclining chairs between Toledo and St. Louis.

JOHN SHUTTS Agent, Danville.
Chas. M. Hays, C. S. Crane
Vice Pres. Gen'l Pass & Tkt. Agt
and General Manager.

OUT IN THE COLD AND WET



your feet require comfortable protection. There's nothing in the world as good as

Mishawaka All-Knit WOOL BOOTS.

Three times as durable as any felt boot made—positively, *noth* proof. Watch for the trade-mark "Ball Band" in red. All others are imitations. Patented and made by

MISHAWAKA WOOLEN MFG. Co., Mishawaka, Ind.

FOR SALE ONLY BY

Buckingham & Co.,
POTOMAC, ILL.

Get 'Em at

Scott's



Potomac, I

The Richard Courtney family came in 1835, and stayed. They enjoyed the richness of the land where grass was so thick that the few cows they kept came in at night loaded down with milk, and almost every hollow tree in the grove was the home of bees. There never was a land which, to the immigrant seeking new homes, flowed more literally with milk and honey than this. Corn was 6¢ a bushel and they had to go to Perryville, Indiana for their grinding. Pigs sold for \$1.00 per dozen.

The fields were being fenced and the frame house was replacing the log cabin in many places. In 1850, Vermilion County adopted the Township Organization and instead of electing 3 Commissioners to conduct the affairs, 8 Supervisors— 1 from each of the 8 townships at that time: Ross, Middlefork, Pilot, Newell, Elwood, Carroll, Georgetown and Danville— were elected as the Governing Board.

The township contained, originally, about 12 sections of timberland, which was more in the form of pretty well-defined groves, with little undergrowth, and hazel-brush patches which have since grown into timberland. So goes the story of our territory before Potomac was.

POTOMAC ONCE MARYSVILLE

The village of Potomac was not always known by that name, but was platted as Marysville by William and J. C. Groves and others on May 1, 1869. Curiously enough the name Potomac does not appear in any of the records in the county recorder's office except in parenthesis after the name Marysville.

Attorney C. M. Crayton, Danville, who spent much of his early life in "the artesian city," as Potomac has many times been called, says that the Village Board of Marysville in 1906 adopted an ordinance changing the name to Potomac, the post office department having changed the name because of Myersville being close in Newell Township. In some unaccountable manner, the name of Potomac was never filed with the county clerk, and therefore was never recorded in the recorder's office. The later name of the town was in honor of the Army of the Potomac. Many Vermilion County soldiers had served in that arm of the Union Army during the Civil War. The original name of the town was in honor of the wives of 2 of the early settlers in the community: John Smith (plain) and Isaac Menneley. The wives' first name was Mary. Robert Marshall and a man named Morehead lived across the creek, but moved in to help Smith make a town. This was in the 40's, although the plat of Marysville was filed for record in 1869 and it was not until 1876 that a petition was filed in County Court asking incorporation of the village under the Act of Incorporating Villages.

The village was originally incorporated as Marysville and later changed its name to Potomac. Another fact which made the location of the incorporation records difficult was that the County Judge's order sitting in probate appears to have been dated 1895, entered nunc pro tunc 1875. The village will celebrate its centennial in our nation's Bicentennial Year.

Isaac Meneley built a blacksmith shop about 1840; John Smith built a frame store across the street from the blacksmith, and went to keeping store. Dr. Ingalls was engaged in the practice of his profession here for 5 or 6 years. Henry Bass had a store here in 1852, and continued in business for some years. George and Mason Wright established themselves in trade in 1860, and remained 4 years and then moved to Danville. In 1864, Lloyd and M. W. Groves, who had a store in Bluegrass, came to Marysville and continued their business until the death of 1 partner in 1874, which dissolved the firm. They had a farm lying just north, which was purchased by George May and laid out into town

lots which is known today as the George May addition.

1. Dillon built the steam grist-mill in 1869, with 2 run of stone. He ran it awhile, when Robbins and Copeland bought it. They in turn sold it to Harris and Campbell.

The schoolhouse is a very slightly and well-built 2-story brick building, 40 x 56, with 2 rooms above and 2 below. The school is graded to 3 departments and is maintained for 8 months in the year.

M. W. Robins was one of the prominent men of Marysville. He had a store building on the public square, the hotel known as the Murle House, a feed yard for cattle and 15 or 16 lots in the village.

VILLAGE ORGANIZATION

At the February term of the county court in 1876, a petition was presented to the court by Rigen Potter and 37 others, asking for the organization of Marysville under the act for the incorporation villages, with the following bounds: commencing at the southeast corner of section 3, town 21, range 13; thence north to the northeast corner of said section; thence west to the northwest corner of the E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of said section; thence south to the north line of the right of way of the railroad; thence west along said right of way 40 rods; thence south 40 rods to the center of Main Street; thence east along the center of Main Street 27 rods; thence south to south line of said section; thence east to place of beginning. The petition set forth that there were within said proposed bounds 323 inhabitants. An election was ordered to be held on the 11th of April, to vote for or against said proposition to incorporate. At that election, 57 votes were cast of which 46 were for incorporation and 11 against. And the court ordered an election to be held on the 11th of May for 6 trustees of said village, to serve until the next time for regular election. At that election 74 votes were cast. George A. May, Caleb Albert, J. L. Partlow, Jesse Lone, M. V. Robbins and S. P. Starr were elected. The present trustees are C. F. Morse, S. Clapp, T. J. Honey, Jesse Lane, M. Guthrie and Isaac Brown. At the organization of the Board, George A. May was chosen President; L. D. Hornbeck was appointed clerk, and T. D. Austin, street commissioner.

Marysville has lately been lost in the name of Potomac, and the artesian wells of the section have made it famous.

THE VILLAGE ELECTION APRIL 20, 1897

The Vermilion Patrol:

A number of citizens met in J. B. Courtney's office Monday night to arrange a ticket. J. B. Courtney was appointed Chairman of the convention and Bert E. Pyke, secretary. The following ticket was nominated. President of the board—J. W. Layne; Village Clerk—Will Flanigan; Trustees (2 years)—L. D. Lane, C. C. Ransom and C. M. Yarrington; Trustee (1 year)—Henry Searls; Police Magistrate—William McCombs.

Another ticket was also filed with the Clerk, by petitions, signed by several voters nominating the following ticket: President of the Board—B. D. Wise, Village Clerk—Will T. Flanigan; Trustees (2 years)—L. D. Lane, C. C. Ransome and W. H. Copeland; Trustee (1 year)—W. L. Bentley; Police Magistrate—J. B. Courtney.

The election will be held in S. Cheney's room on Tuesday, April 10 with the following as clerks and judges: Clerks—Geo. Avey and S. Cheney. Judges—Charles Shain, Elisha Hall and William Bever.

NEW VILLAGE BOARD MEETS May 7, 1897

The Potomac Rustler:

New Village Board met in J. B. Courtney's office Tuesday night for Organization. The roll call disclosed the following members present: J. W. Layne; Trustees—Allen, Bentley, Lane, Ransom, and Wilber; W. H. Copeland being absent.

The matter of appointing Treasurer, Village Constable, Street Commissioner and Pound Master was brought up and A. B. Duncan was elected Treasurer. It was suggested that the 3 latter offices be consolidated if a proper person could be found to accept them.

W. L. Bentley and C. C. Ransom were appointed a committee to receive and pass upon application for this position. The matter of the suit of Schoonover vs. the Village of Marysville was brought up and President J. W. Layne, Village Clerk W. T. Flanigan and Trustee L. D. Lane were appointed a committee to confer with and employ attorneys and attend to such other matters pertaining to the case as they may deem it the best interest of the village. The President announced that he had not as yet completed his committees, but that he would be able to announce them at the next meeting of the Board. On motion, the Board adjourned session till Monday evening, June 10th.

HILLS OF HAWBUCK

by Eva Hoskins

1952

OUT OUR WAY

Across the creek comes harsh, cawing cries,
A wild, eerie calling drifts down from the skies:
A redbird goes darting, a king-fisher shrills,
To all who are listening, spring's message thrills.

In the maples the sap is beginning to flow,
The bluebird is back in the hollow below;
The blackbirds cease chatter at the close of day,
While robins give warning of rain far away.

The sapsucker's tapping, while the woodpeckers rap,
Can be heard in the elm, see his flashing red cap?
The brown thrush goes slipping thru the fences,
Off across the field drifts the meadowlark's song.
On sunny, wouth hillside there are flowers coming up,
Cress in the swamp, with wild flags at the edge,
Violets and bluebells, and ferns on the ledge.

Buckeyes are bursting, rebuds in bloom,
Maple buds, falling, for new leaves making room;
Wild golden glow, and dandelions, too!
And the grass in the meadow is greening anew.

The creek's coat of ice is all washed away,
While willow wands wave, with tassels quite gay;
At reflections they cast on the water below,
And buds drift in backwater with no place to go.

The water is clearing, the stream running slow,
The bass leap the shallows at the ruffle below;
Along the creek bank, on a watersoaked log,
A turtle is sunning to the tune of a frog.

The red berries are gone from the bittersweet vine,
Climbing the fence in the pleasant sunshine;
On the rattlebox bush the pods that fell,
Were pushed off by buds now beginning to swell.

Stir up the leaves with a stick and you'll find,
Worms of all sizes and bugs of each kind;
Where the woodcutter's axe took toll to keep warm,
The sap is now seeping and the honey bees swarm.

The sun is so warm, the wind so soft,
The birds are building, in branches aloft;
The catbird is busy at mocking his kind,
While the little wren hurries, a homesite to find.

In the night the wind blows out of the sky,
Warm, splashy drops, on everything dry;
With a new moon gleaming, distant and far,
Thru thinning mist, one sees the glow of a star.

The sun in the morning a great, rosy glow,
With a white, dewy frost, like fine, sitted snow;
Nature bursts its bonds to begin a new life,
While the fetters of winter are shed in the strife.

Pioneers of Potomac

"REGARDIN' POTOMAC, ILLINOIS."

Written for the Patrol by Tom M. "Zeke" Morgan, Paris, Illinois, Feb. 4, 1893.

"If you want to see a hustler,
An a town 'at's on the rise,
Full o' men o' pluck an' ginger
An' bus'ness enterprise,
Jes' ski nout from Danville
By a crooked northern route,
Hug the Middlefork timber,
Jes' a-joggin' in an' out:
Drop some change in your pocket,
Be prepared to pay your bill,
An' when you come to Bean Crick
You'll se old Marysville—
Potomac, now they call it,
'Zactly why, I do not know,
But Marysville, I'm guessin'
Was a little mite too slow.
So when the railroad come—
Narry-gauged to begin—
Marysville she jes: skedaddled,
An' Potomac trotted in.

"You'll know it when you see it
By its raal vim an' growth,
An' you stay there twenty minits,
You are sure to ketch 'em both.
The whole town's full o' business
As a houn' pup is o' flesa,
It's a-floatin' in the air
An' a-sproutin' on the trees.
Ever'thing about the place
Is up an' on the go—
The blamed ol' Shanghai roosters
Stay awake at night to crow—
An' they cutter in the day-time
As they strut about the straw,
An' have a look as knowin'
As a dude a-readin' law.

"It's the smartest little burg!
In' the people's all in tune;
'Cause they know their town's a-growin'
Like a jimpson weed in June;
An' when you drop among 'em
They come up in sech a way,
You wish you'd brung your gripsack,
An' come prepared to stay.

"Good people there is plenty.
An' the gals—Oh! sakes alive!
They'll set your heart a-flutterin'
Like it did at Twenty-five.
They are not the flirtin' kind
Like you see on city street.
But they're womanly an' dignified,
The kind you like to meet.
An' you'll envy them young fellers
It will take you by surprise—
Who laughs and loaf in sunshine
Of them blue an' hazel eyes;
An' you'll ketch yourself a-wishin'
You could put on all the styles,
Swap your gray hairs for auburn,
Run at large among the smiles.

"An' them 'ere artehun wells!
Jes' as common as the tress:
Water's in sich a hurry
'At it don't take time to Freeze.
Another thing about it,
It's as plenty as the air,
A-bubblin' an' a-spoutin'
All about you ever' where.
It haint that kind nuther
With bad eggs upon its breath,
'At a drink of means slow death;
As the dew upon the rose,
An' when you go to drink it
You don't have to hold your nose.

"Jes' here I want to whisper,
What 'm sayin' — keep it still
'At this 'ere arteshum water
Will beat a dinner pill —
Yes, 'twill down an' 'Early Riser',
A 'Moffett', 'Jayne' er' 'Hood',
It's a hummer in its bus'ness,
An' is sure to do you good.

"Now mark it—what I'm sayin'
An' remeber 'at I said,
'Don't bowl up on that water
Before you go to bed,'
If you do you'll git up airly,
For it has a ketch way
O' routin out a feller,
Jes' about the break of day.
You can dabble in it an' wade it,
Have all the fun you please.
But soak your hid full o' it.
You'll want the mornin' breeze;
An' you'll want it raal early —
Now you mind what I say —
You'll wake a-kickin' cover off
About the peep o' day,
An' slide into your trousers,
Shoes, jacket, coat an' hat.
But you won't be partic'lar
'Bout your collar an' cravat."

CALEB BENNETT

Caleb Bennett went on the prairie and took up the fine farm now owned by Zack Putnam, and improved it. He sunk 3 artesian wells, one of which is the finest in the country. By boring thirty feet he got a permanent three inch stream, which is carried up high enough to furnish a good water power to drive a churn. Several other farms in that vicinity have artesian water. The farm which Mr. Caleb Bennett brought into cultivation is owned by Zack Putnam, who carries on a butter dairy of 25 cows, the only one of the kind in the town. He uses the water-power to run a small turbine wheel, which drives the churn and runs the water through the milk house to keep it cool. With this care in keeping the milk cool, and with absolute cleanliness in the management of the dairy, he has no trouble in getting the highest market price for his product, and has solved the problem of profitable butter-making on these prairies in 1850.

FREDERICK BENNETT

Frederick Bennett, farmer, was born in Bedfordshire, England in 1831. He came with his parents to America when quite young. In 1853, he came to this county. He married Amanda J. Jameson in 1868. There were five children, two of whom were Thomas M. and Fanny B. Mr. Bennett held the office of postmaster. He owned two hundred sixteen acres of land, worth \$30 and acre.

HERMAN BIEDERMANN

Herman Biedermann, shoemaker, was born in Germany on April 15, 1846. He came to America in July, 1870. He married Emma Martin. They were the parents of five children: Ralph, Mabel, Mary, Pansy and John.

AL BLACKFORD

James Allen "Al" Blackford was born in Armstrong, Nov. 17, 1882, in a family of 7 children. His schooling was at the rural school of Green Valley and Bean Creek for 3 years. The family moved to Potomac in 1911, and he then entered the University of Illinois. On April 5, 1911, he and his brother Russell opened a general store known as Blackford

Bros. Al served on the school boards, Village council and was supervisor for 2 terms. He was treasurer of the U.B. Church Sunday School for 25 years and for the past 15 years as secretary of Potomac Lodge No. 782 A.F. and A.M. also a member of the Consistory Valley of Danville. He was member of the Modern Woodman and was a charter member of the Potomac Lions Club and also Past Master of the Masonic Lodge in Potomac.

ED BLAIR

Ed Blair was born in 1878 northeast of Potomac four miles. He was the son of Humphrey and Nancy Adams Blair. He married "Tiny" Helvie in 1900. She was the daughter of Alexander and Lucy Helvie. Mr. Blair farmed and sold insurance and later took employment as a carpenter at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul. He remained there for more than twenty years at the base carpentry shop. They resided in Rantoul at this time returning to Potomac after retirement in 1957. They had three children: Veva Hammond, Eugene Blair and Inez Little.



Anna Brown (older woman) and her daughter, Kate Hodge

ANNA BROWN

Anna Brown left Ireland one hundred years ago, arriving at Ellis Island in America. Her husband had come earlier and had earned the money to send for her and their two small daughters, Anna and Mary. The couple had lost six sons while living in Ireland. Two daughters, Bettie and Katie, and a son, Tommy, were born in America.

They first settled at Mansfield, Illinois where Mr. Brown was employed as a section and bridge building foreman for the railroad.

Later they moved to Potomac. Mrs. Brown kept boarders, baked and sold bread. Ironed for the bankers and along with her twelve year old daughter Katie, was janitor at the Potomac Grade School.

Tommy died in 1889 at the age of five and Mr. Brown died the same year following a stroke.

While her daughter Mary Roe was making a trip around the world, Mrs. Brown died at the home of another daughter, Bettie Edwards, near Armstrong. This was in 1923.

Two granddaughters, Mildred Parsons and Pauline Behimer live in this vicinity.

T. W. BUCKINGHAM

T. W. Buckingham, innkeeper and justice of the peace, commenced in 1876 to manage the hotel on Main Street in Marysville, known as Murkle House. He was born in Allen County, Indiana, on April 23, 1833. He came to this state in 1870, settling in Fairmount. Here he went into the grocery business, but afterward became a commercial traveler. He married Ellen A. Clark in 1856. They were the parents of five children: Mary A., wife of G. J. May, Mable F., wife of J. E. Butz, George T., Myrtie, and Clyde.

HARRY CARPENTER

Harry Carpenter was the son of Mr. & Mrs. Delos Carpenter living seven miles northwest of Potomac. He was born in Union Center, Cumberland County, Illinois on December 31, 1894. He and his parents moved to this vicinity and he volunteered in the aviation service in August with Fred Taylor. They were sent to Jefferson Barracks together. Harry was assigned to the 127th aero squadron and Fred to the 116th, both in training at Kelly Field, Texas. Harry was the victim of ptomaine poisoning

and was confined to the hospital for several weeks and was not as far advanced in training as the other boys. When the 127th and 116th sailed for France, he was assigned to the 100th squadron for further training which accounts for his being on the ill-fated ship, the transport Tuscania, which was torpedoed. He was the first boy lost in war from Potomac and at the age of 23 was buried in Scotland. Our American Legion Post in Potomac was named in his honor.



Harmon
Samuel
Copeland

HARMON COPELAND

Mr. Harmon Samuel Copeland was born May 18, 1862, at Bean Creek. His parents were William H. and Rachael Stearns Copeland who were the parents of ten children of which all but two passed on. Those living were a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Chambers, and Mr. Copeland.

Mr. Copeland was given the name Harmon from his oldest sister's husband, John Wilson, who was in the Civil War. His Colonel was a well-thought-of officer and Mr. Wilson, home on furlough, asked that his officer's surname of Harmon be given the baby as his first name. The middle name of Samuel was after his grandfather, Samuel Copeland.

He was reared on a farm and received his meagre education at the Bean Creek School where seats were made of lumber from a saw mill nearby. In 1886, his father retired from farming and moved to Potomac. Young H. S. started a restaurant on his

own. It was located where the present city building is. A partnership with a brother, Eli H., was formed and they remained together about a year. Then his father purchased Eli's interest, and after a few months, the business was sold.

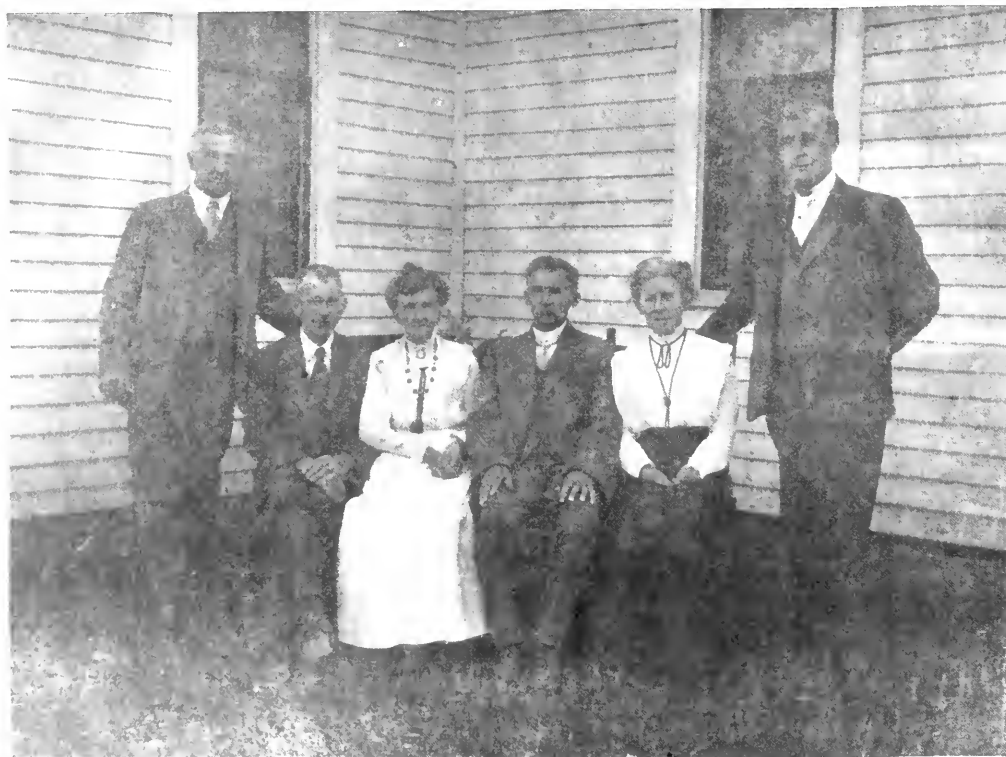
On February 24, 1886, he was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Williams, and they had two daughters, Mrs. Florence McCusker and Mrs. Rachel O'Byrne. They lived in the home that they built for over 65 years. They loved to travel and had many antiques.

Then in 1887, H. S. and his father went into the business of furniture and undertaking. In 1894, he passed his test and was issued Embalmers License No. 341. The undertakers didn't only embalm but also built their own caskets. On October 10th and 11th in 1942 he observed his 56th year in the business at the same location.

Mr. Copeland's one wish was to live to be 100, but he passed away March 12, 1962, just lacking a few months of his dream of being 100.

WILLIAM H. COPELAND

William H. Copeland, a farmer, was born in Gallin County, Ohio on April 15, 1821. His family settled near Danville in 1829. He married Rachel Stevens who was born February 21, 1823, in Clinton County, Ohio. They were the parents of ten children. Nancy E. became the wife of William Duncan. Elizabeth married John Chambers. Other children were Eli, Andrew, George W. and Harmon. Mr. Copeland was a school director for twenty years, commissioner of highways for three years, and was supervisor of the township for many years. He owned one thousand acres of land, worth \$25 per acre.



The Copelands—Andy, Harmon, Nannie Duncan, Eli, Lib Chambers and George Copeland.



The Cossairts

Back row—left to right: Sadie Huber Cossairt (wife of Al), Adeline Cossairt Crawford, “Al” Cossairt, “Sep” Cossairt, Mae Cossairt Harriman, Dr. “Sant” Cossairt; Second row: Laura Cossairt Harriman, Minerva Cossairt (wife of Sant), Katherine Cossairt (wife of Sep); Seated: Susan Cossairt—in arms—Irene Cossairt (daughter of Al), John Cossairt, William Cossairt—in arms—Arthur Cossairt son of Sep).

SANTFORD COSSAIRT

The Cossairt Family has lived 1 mile west of Potomac on Rt. 136 for over a hundred years. William and Susan Cossairt had seven children born here who lived to be adults.

Santford (Sant) married Minerva Acton. He became a doctor and practiced in Potomac for her lifetime. They had 1 daughter Louie Jane Merkel who now lives near Danville. She has 1 son Patrick Fitzgerald.

Adeline married Charles Crawford of Jamesburg, Illinois. She had 4 step children: Harold, Homer and Don. One daughter, Irene Clem, is now living near Williamsport, Indiana.

Septimus (Sep) married Katherine Terpening. After marriage they lived 1 mile south of Potomac on a farm. In 1919, they moved into Potomac and he became postmaster for nearly 20 years, until politics changed as such was the custom at that time. He then became tax assessor and acted as such until his death.

After Katherine passes away in 1940, he was later married to Fannie (Williams) Werts. He lived in Potomac until his death. He had 3 children: Arthur (deceased 1905 at age 6 years); 2 daughters, Louise and Leota. Louise married Clinton Mackey of Jamesburg, they have 2 children Elbert and Barbara.

Leota taught school in Potomac for 4 years (1931-1935) before her marriage to Glenn Moore of East Lynn, Illinois. They have 3 children: David, Glenda Kay and Larry.

Both Louise and Leota with their husbands now make their homes in Sarasota, Florida.

Al Cossairt married Sadie Huber and they lived in Potomac for a few years. Later they moved to Faith, South Dakota. They had 4 children: Irene, Lowell, Wilbur and Donald. During the 1918-Flu epidemic, his wife Irene and son Donald succumbed. In later years he was remarried and had 2 daughters: Nadine and Jacqueline.

Laura was a primary teacher in Potomac for nearly 25 years. At that time she lived with her

brother John on the home place. After the death of her sister Mae, Laura was married to Elmer Harriman.

Mae Cossairt was married to Elmer Harriman. They had 2 daughters: Carolyn and Grace. Carolyn married Loraine Bert and is now living in Interlochen, Michigan. Their son Jack also lives in Michigan. Grace married Haskell Sexton of Urbana, Illinois. They had 2 daughters: Susan Jane and a son John. The Sextons now live in Naples, Florida.

The youngest boy, John Cossairt, served some time in the Armed Forces during World War I. After returning home, he took charge of farming the home place. He married Faye Corner. He lived at the farm until his death. His wife now lives in the Cossairt home.

The Cossairts were very musical. Many may remember the men's quartet. After Al moved away, Elmer Moreland joined John, Sep and Sant. The Cossairt quartet sang at many types of functions such as 4th of July celebration, funerals and church meetings. Adeline and Mae gave piano lessons at one time. Many of the Cossairts grandchildren and great grandchildren have shown talent also. Among them are flutists, trombonist, violinists, trumpet players, also alto and french horn. One was a drummer in 7th infantry band while in the service.

Much of the entertainment in the family gatherings at the Cossairt farm home was spent in afternoon song fests.



Laura and Leota Cossairt

D. S. COSSAIRT

David S. Cossairt was born in Potomac, Dec. 27, 1875. He was the son of William and Louise Smith Cossairt. He was a retired farmer, postmaster for 14 years and Middlefork Township assessor. He married Catherine Turpening and they had three children, Louise, Leota, and a son Arthur who died at age 7. He then married Fannie Wertz Dec. 13, 1944, and he died Dec. 4, 1956.

WILLIAM COSSAIRT

William Cossairt was a farmer born in Vermilion County on July 5, 1836. He married Louise A. Smith in August, 1861. They were the parents of William A., Ada, David S., Samuel A., Laura and John. Mr. Cossairt held the office of school director, assessor and treasurer of the board of commissioners.

J. B. COURTNEY

J. B. Courtney, druggist, was born in Monongalia County, Virginia on March 2, 1824. He came to this state in 1845. He married Samantha Gruey in 1848. They were the parents of three children. Mr. Courtney commenced the drug business in Marysville in 1875. His partner in business was Dr. Messner. He held the offices of collector, assessor, and justice of the peace.

C. L. DUNCAN

C. L. Duncan was born April 21, 1888, he was the son of John and Nellie Wilkie Duncan. Raised on a farm near Potomac, he went to the rural grade school at Wallace Chapel, and later on as a young man went to Denver and took a business course at the Central Business College. He then returned to Potomac in 1910 to work on his father's farm. Four years later he joined his brother in the hardware business.

He served three years on the Grade School Board. He was also a member of the Methodist Church, Lion's Club, and Potomac Lodge No. 782. A. F. and A. M.

On February 14, 1917, he married Alma Helvie, and they had one son, William.

CARL DUNCAN

Carl Duncan was born near Potomac September 24, 1884. He was a farmer and landowner. He lived in this vicinity all his life with the exception of a few years when he lived in the west. He married Edna B. Karr January 6, 1909, and they had two sons, Mason and Melvin Duncan.

CHARLES P. DUNCAN

Charles P. Duncan was born in Fountain County, Indiana in 1852. He married Mary A. Copeland in 1876. Their children were Ernest, Asa, Albert, Ada, and Mamie. Mr. Duncan did a thriving grocery business in Marysville having one thousand dollars invested in groceries.



Fred Duncan

FRED DUNCAN

Fred Duncan was born December 8, 1886. He was the son of John and Nellie Wilkie Duncan, raised on a farm near Potomac, he went to the rural grade school at Wallace Chapel, and later he came to Potomac High School. In 1908, he went to Denver and enrolled in the Central Business College. He returned to Potomac and became a clerk in the Leonard Hard-

ware Store. He liked the merchandising business and in 1910 he formed a partnership with Chas. Jester. The firm's name was "Duncan and Jester." In 1914, his brother Claud became interested in the business and purchased Mr. Jester's interest, and the two brothers named their business, "Duncan Bros. Hardware Store." Mr. Duncan served on the school board, was a member of the city council and served as a director of the Potomac Building and Loan. He was a member of the Methodist Church, a member of the Potomac Lodge No. 782 A. F. and A. M. and a charter member of the Potomac Lions Club. On January 16, 1915, he married Mary E. Goodwine and they had two children, Robert and Louis Duncan. He later married Lois Crawford.

JAMES H. DUNCAN

James H. Duncan, farmer and stockdealer, was born in Gallatin County, Kentucky on February 12, 1818. He married Elizabeth Crabbe on April 4, 1839. To them were born ten children. One son, William H., married Nancy E. Copeland. Mr. Duncan was a school trustee and school director. He fattened about one hundred head of cattle yearly.

ERSOM FRENCH

Ersom French, a farmer, was born in Knox County, Indiana on April 14, 1811. Mr. French was twice married. His first wife was Harriet Clem. After her death he married Eliza Carroll in 1850. Three children were born to them. Truman P. was a practicing physician in Ogden. Mr. French was a school director and a road commissioner. He owned two hundred and nine acres of good land.

JOHN GOODWINE, JR.

John Goodwine, Jr., Potomac farmer and stock-raiser, was born December 2, 1848, in Vermilion County. He first married Mary Alexander in December, 1870. Anna was born to them in 1872. Mrs. Goodwine died in October 1872. He then married Lidora A. Lane in May, 1874. To them were born John W., Wilbur H., Cora, Ulysses S., Wayne, Everett, and Vesta. He fed and shipped a large number of cattle and hogs each year. Later Mr. Goodwine founded and was president of the Goodwine Bank. He was joined there by his son John W. This bank became Goodwine State Bank in 1920. The Potomac National Bank merged with Goodwine State Bank in 1920. The Potomac National Bank merged with Goodwine State Bank in 1929. Later he was joined in the bank by his son, Ulysses and his daughter Cora Rice.

MARION GOODWINE

Marion Goodwine, farmer, was born in Warren County, Indiana on August 26, 1846. His father moved to this state when he was one year of age, and settled in this township. Mr. Goodwine remained on the farm until he was twenty-two years of age. For three years he was engaged in the mercantile business in Higginsville, and was also postmaster while there. On September 1, 1870, he married Susan Selsor. They were the parents of Hattie, Fred, Ary, Mary, and Dale.



U.S. Goodwine

U. S. GOODWINE

Ulysses Sidney "Uly" Goodwine was born Feb. 11, 1884, in a family of 10 children. His parents were John and Alice Goodwine, who were early pioneers of this community. He attended the local grade and high school, graduating in the class of 1905. He went to Gem City Business College and graduated. On returning, he helped his father in farming, but in 1906 he entered his father's bank. The bank was known as "Goodwine Bank," as in those days most all banks were private institutions. His father and brother John established the bank in 1903. Later the bank was compelled by state law to change its name to "Goodwine State Bank."

He was married on Feb. 15, 1909, to Margaret French and they had two children, Lois and Marvin Goodwine. He served on the school board, village board, a member of the Methodist Church, a Woodman, Vermilion County Bankers Assn. and a charter member of the Lions Club.



William Gray

WILLIAM GRAY

William H. Gray, born in Foster, Indiana came to Potomac, working on a ditch digging crew at the age of seventeen. He was the son of John and Rebecca Steeley Gray. His father died and his mother remarried Mike Heffern. Besides his two brothers, Joe and Jake, he had several half brothers and sisters. Mrs. Josephine Goodwine is the last survivor of that family. On December 23, 1888, he married Etta Mae Hall who was the daughter of Elisha and Sabrina Hall. They started housekeeping in a large home in downtown Potomac, later buying the house in the north end of Potomac that they owned for over fifty years. Mrs. Gray died in 1939 and Mr. Gray died in 1952. There were nine children born to the couple, the last survivors being Mrs. Marjorie Beshears who lives in Rossville and Mrs. Minnie Hollowell who lives near Covington, Indiana.

Mr. Gray was in public office for over forty years serving as assistant county deputy sheriff, constable, justice of the peace and supervisor for a short time. He was an active fifty year Mason and had received the 32nd degree. Mrs. Gray was active in the Church of Christ, Royal Neighbor Lodge, and remembered for her beautiful quilts and crocheting.

CHARLES LaGRANGE

Charles LaGrange was born January 10, 1846, at Vestal, New York. He enlisted at Elmira, New York in the 10th Engineers in the Civil War and came to Marysville, now Potomac, soon after the close of the war and lived in his present home over

55 years. When he came here, the country was a wilderness with roads hewed through the timbers. There was a sawmill at Bean Creek and the gristmill in town. He hauled flour to Hoopeston and Millford and clerked in the Dillon Store which housed the post office also. The mail came from Danville about twice a week; helping in the post office he could hold all the mail in one hand. When the railroad was built he held the position of station agent for some time and later went on the road as a conductor. He then became a carpenter and built many of the buildings in town and surrounding country which are still standing. He also built many caskets. He helped to organize Steedman Post G. A. R. 352 and was commander for more than 35 years. He took part in Memorial Day Services for many years giving the Gettysburg address. He then married Mary Herbert and they had one son that died in childhood. He himself died November 24, 1938, at the age of 92.

HARRY D. GRIMES

Harry D. Grimes was born in Potomac, the son of Marion and Addie Duncan Grimes, on August 12, 1908. He had three brothers, Manfred, Ralph and Clarence who preceded him in death. Harry died Feb. 3, 1974. Two sisters are living, Lois VanFossan and Maxine Wagner. Harry or "Huck" as he was known to many of his friends, opened "Harry's Pool Room" in Potomac on Oct. 16, 1950. The business was located on the second floor of the building at the southeast corner of Vermilion and State Street, and Gib Anderson's clothing store was located on the first floor.

In 1954 the poolroom was moved to 102 N. Vermilion Street where it remained until his death.

It was quite an undertaking for a sightless man to enter into a retail and service business, but he was equal to the challenge and remained in business for over 10 years.

Harry's hobbies included fishing, trapping and he was an avid baseball fan. He was known as a "die-hard Cub fan."

Most of the townsfolk remember Harry's uncanny ability to identify a person from the sound of his voice. Even if he hadn't talked to a person for several years, it hardly took more than a "hello" before Harry knew who he was speaking with.

The young men in town were Harry's "boys." Many relied on him for advice and thought of him as "Dad."

Harry bought a typewriter, memorized the keyboard, and set up nights writing short stories about trapping, nature and the like.

He was married in April, 1935, to Marie Judy and they had three sons, Laddie, Larry and John. Larry died soon after birth. Harry got a great a-

mount of enjoyment out of his family. He taught his boys to fish, trap and swim.

He played a guitar and sang ballads. He also played a violin. One of his special blessings was his three grandchildren, Vickie, Todd and Chad Grimes.

ELISHA HALL

Elisha Hall was born in Butler County, Ohio on March 20, 1823. He married Sabrina Meldrum on February 7, 1866, came to Potomac and they had four children, Etta Gray, Minnie Cheney, Frank Hall and one who died in infancy. He made the long and torturous trip to California with others in 1849 over the trackless plains remaining there for three years. He was a very industrious man. He was a member of the Christian Church when it was first organized.



K. A. Harper

K. A. HARPER

Karl Ashton Harper was born August 14, 1875, on a farm near Lisbon, Cedar County, Iowa. He was one of six children. After going through the rural schools of that community, he remained home and assisted his father in farming until 1900. He then entered the grain business in Lisbon, and then selling his interest, he came to Potomac in 1907, purchasing the elevator from J. C. Koehn. He owned the business for years.

He served on the Town Board and nine years on the School Board. He was a member of the Potomac Lodge 781, A. F. and A. M., a 32 Mason belonging to consistory, Valley of Danville, Methodist Church and a charter member of the Potomac Lion's Club.

On October 16, 1901, he married Hattie V. Yeisley, and they had three children, Margaret, Dale and Paul Harper.

JOHN HOTH

John Hoth came to Potomac with his family at the age of three years from Minnesota. Both his parents were originally from Germany. His father, a blacksmith by trade, opened a shop in Potomac in the year 1881 and John left school at thirteen to serve as an apprentice learning his father's trade. At the death of his father he opened his own shop located where the Potomac Post Office stands today. In 1907, he married Alta Vina Shain and they reared nine children. He continued with his blacksmith trade and was well-known in this community during the horse-and-buggy years. The family moved to a farm during the depression years, which was not a success. They returned to Potomac. He went to work in a machine shop in Danville until retiring at the age of 80 years. He died on November 2, 1965.

CHARLES A. JAMESON

Charles A. Jameson, cabinetmaker, was born in Champaign County, Ohio in 1847. He learned his trade when quite young. He married Emelia Reihart in 1869. Their children were Maggie E., Lulu E., and Robert. His father was one of the pioneers of the county.

GEORGE ELMER JAMESON

George Elmer Jameson was born on March 8, 1866, in Vermilion County, son of Elizabeth Weiser and Joseph Jameson.

He married Effie Louise Martin Miller in April, 1894. They had three children, Gladys, Glenn and Clyde.

Mr. Jameson was a Potomac barber for sixty years and former town clerk.

EARL BERT JAMESON

Earl Bert Jameson was born July 6, 1883, in Potomac, Ill., the son of Edmund and Irene Jameson. He had a brother Clarence, a half brother Roy, and half sister Mame. He graduated from the "old" grade and high schools in Potomac. On June 30, 1904, he married Stella Nan Wilson, daughter of William and Emma Wilson. They had three sons, Curtis, Donovan, and Dale. Curtis had a son Thomas and daughter Delena. Donovan had three sons, Dean, Gary and Lee. Dale had four sons, David, Larry, Doug and Danny, and daughters, Sallie and Susan. Earl and Stella's great grandchildren are Todd and Mary Jameson, Dawn, Frankie and Trenny Rhodes and Brett and Kelly Jameson.

Earl was a mailcarrier out of Potomac for thirteen years from 1905 until 1918. His route was south of Potomac through Number Ten territory. At that time they carried mail by using horses and carts



Earl Bert Jameson

or Klondikes. After he became a carrier, he bought out Lonnie Shanks. Later he carried through the summer months on a motorcycle. Next they started using Model T Fords. His route was extended and covered the territory northwest of Armstrong and Potomac. In 1918, he resigned to farm William Wilson's farm. Frank McCormick followed Earl on the mail route.

Earl moved to the Wm. Wilson farm on Armistice Day, 1918. Mr. Wilson moved into town on Earl's property. Later, Earl left the farm and bought the Ed Holden property east of town. Earl was hired by Wilbur Goodwine to operate a garage and sell Ford cars. For several years he worked for Wilbur until Wilbur sold out to Frank Talbott. Earl continued working for Frank until he bought him out. This was in the twenties. He sold Oaklands and Pontiacs for two or three years, then sold the garage to O'Neal and Correll of Rankin.

After that, Earl contracted painting in the community. He was elected Supervisor of Middlefork Township in 1941, and re-elected three times. During his tenure as Supervisor, he proposed and worked for perpetual care for cemeteries. The people of the county (Vermilion) voted this in. He served on the high school board for several years. He was well-known by all people in the community. For his remaining years he continued as paint contractor. He suffered a stroke while in Florida in 1951, but recovered and continued his painting until a year before his death in 1962. His wife Stella died in 1963.

J. E. JAMESON

J. E. Jameson, mechanic, was born in Muskingum County, Ohio in 1847. He remained in Ohio until he reached the age of twenty-five where he assisted his father in farming. He then learned the wagon and carriage making trade. He married Eliza Knox in 1873. Their children were Thomas R. and Mamie. After the death of his first wife, he married Irene Lawrence. Their children were Earl and Clarence. Mr. Jameson commenced business in Marysville in 1872.

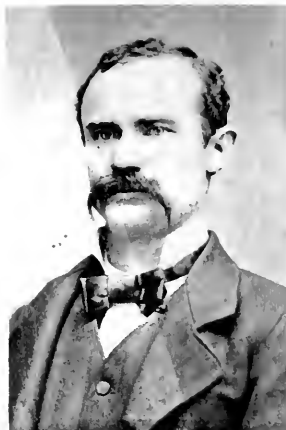
CHARLES JESTER

Charles Jester was born in 1884, in the Wallace Chapel neighborhood and there were only 2 children in that family. He attended grade school at Biddle and Green Valley School and later Potomac High School. After leaving high school, he became employed for one year as clerk in the Lou Wilber store. The next two years he spent with the Laytons Department Store, before going back to school for more mathematics. Attending business school, he graduated in 1906. Coming to Danville, he was employed as clerk in the freight office of the Wabash Railroad, afterward going to Chicago where he was associated with American Express Company.

Dissatisfied with city life, he returned to Potomac and took a clerical job with the Leonard Bros. Hardware Store. He then went into business with Wm. Archer, the two buying a local restaurant which they owned for 2 years.

In 1910, he formed a partnership with Fred Duncan under a firm name of Duncan & Jester, and purchased the E. G. Leonard Hardware Store, being in partnership the next 4 years. In 1914, he sold his interest to Claude Duncan and the firm assumed the name of Duncan Bros. That same year, he became identified with the telephone company as manager, and in 1930 purchased from Frank Samuels the entire business. His business was sold in 1947.

From 1917 to 1922, he was an active member of the National Guard. He held such positions as village clerk, member of the school board, village treasurer, secretary of Potomac Building and Loan Ass'n. and secretary of the Lions Club. He was a member of the Methodist Church of Potomac, Potomac Lodge No. 782 A. F. & A. M., a 32° Mason, a member of Consistory Valley of Danville and a charter member of the Lions Club On December 14, 1924, he married Candace Kruder.



FRANK M. JOHNSON

Frank M. Johnson was an old-fashioned pioneer teacher who was born in Brown County, Indiana in 1842. He came to Illinois at the age of 16 years to work on farms.

He saved his money and attended the Indiana Central College. After graduation there, he became a circuit rider in the ministry. Later he attended the Northwestern University in Chicago and obtained a Masters Degree. He moved to Potomac in 1900. He rode horseback to his school at Bixby, a small settlement northwest of Collison. He also taught school at Wallace Chapel, Bean Creek, Hawbuck, Higginsville, Bluegrass, and his last school was at Red Oak. This school is still standing. He was a very strict teacher. He was his own janitor at these one-room schools where he taught pupils from the 1st through 8th grades. You could get a certificate to teach school with an 8th grade diploma. He helped several pupils to obtain their diplomas. He often rode horseback to the pupils' homes after supper to help them with their lessons.

He died in 1910.

E. GRANT JUDY

E. Grant Judy was born January 25, 1867 near Potomac. He was the son of Isaac and Elizabeth Hornbeck Judy. He was a retired farmer and stock raiser, was Superintendent of the Potomac Methodist Church and Wallace Chapel Sunday Schools for more than 45 years. At one time, he taught school at Georgetown and was a member of the board of directors for the annual Old Settlers' Reunion in Potomac. He married Hattie Talbott and they had a daughter Viola and a foster son Paul Talbott.

MARKWOOD KILE JUDY

Markwood Kile Judy was born near Bluegrass, Illinois, July 19, 1883, the son of David and Nancy Judy. He married Rosa Lockerby Jan. 20, 1909. They had six children, Kile, Marie, June, Morris, Edna and Arlene. They had one granddaughter and five grandsons.

Mark farmed for many years. He moved to Kansas for three years then returned to Potomac area. He raised turkeys for several years then moved into Potomac in 1951.

He operated the Potomac Water Plant for a while and served as traffic cop for a time. He was a loyal Republican all his life and enjoyed talking politics.

He served as Deputy Game Warden for several years while he lived in the country. Although he lost one arm in a hunting accident when he was about 21 years old, he still enjoyed hunting and target practice. Having an arm missing did not stop him from driving six horses hitched to a disk. He drove tractors and cars and said there wasn't much he couldn't do except wash dishes (which he attempted once when all in the family were down with the flu).

MARTIN JUDY

Our ancestors came to America before 1776. One Martin Tschudi came from Switzerland with his wife and children to Philadelphia, Pa. in 1738. Later he and some of his children went to West Va. Some of the children bought land in West Va. and that is where our people came from. They changed their name to the English form "Judy." Our great grandfather George Washington Judy sent his eldest son John to Illinois to buy land for himself and for brothers and sisters. This John was the grandfather of Lloyd Judy who lives west of Potomac. John bought that land and bought some northwest of Potomac for his brother David. This was west of Bluegrass and east of Ellis. David was the father of William Judy (Gladys Auth's father), also the father of Mark and Olen Judy who lived most of their lives in and around the Blue grass area.

We found a tax receipt of Grandpa David's for his 160 acres. The tax was \$19.27! That was in 1868. Grandpa Judy was married first to Catherine Wright, a sister of Uncle Henry Wright. They had children: William, Laura Bert and Stella. Catherine died and Grandpa married Nancy Kile from West Virginia. They had children: Mark, Olen and Clint. William died and Grandpa married Mrs. Mary Woodworth from Urbana. She was the grandma of Don Burkhart of Armstrong. Mary died and Grandpa married

Rebecca Hedrick from W. Va. Next Grandpa bought a house in Potomac and they moved in for a winter. They were homesick for the country and went back to the farm. Rebecca died and Grandpa married her sister Mrs. Mollie Riggleman who was the Grandmother of Kenny Riggleman who recently lived northwest of Potomac. She outlived Grandpa. He passed away June 6, 1920.

William had children: Guy, Gladys (Auth), Ralph, Goldie, Lola and Edgar. All gone now except Gladys and Adgar. Bert had children, Velma and Opal who live around Claytonville. Laura Gitzen had children: Berniece (Mathis), Russell and Pearl. Stella had several children and lived in N. Dakota. Mark had children: Kile, Marie, June, Morris, Edna and Arlene. The last two girls have passed away. Olen had children: Marthann, Ethan, Scott, David, Dan and Carol. Scott passed away. Clint went to Wisconsin. He had 10 children (2 sets of twins).

Rick Lanham



RICHARD G. LANHAM

Richard G. "Rick" Lanham was born April 1, 1918; he was the son of J. G. and Grace. He married Peggy Braunson, August 3, 1940. They had one daughter, Diana Jameson.

He was chairman of the Vermilion County Board of Supervisors for sixteen years and county board member for twenty-four years. He was first elected to the old County Board of Supervisors in 1949. He served seven terms as chairman of the Board of Review.

He was a Republican candidate for State Representative in 1962. He served on several County Board Committees and was instrumental in getting the board's approval of the Public Safety Building to be built in Danville.

He owned and operated the Lanham Funeral Home and was supervisor of Middlefork Township. He graduated from Worsham Embalming School in Chicago in 1940, and owned the funeral home since 1950. He was a member of Masonic Lodge 782, Danville Elks Club, Gao Grotto and Potomac Lions Club. He was also Master of Ceremonies at many functions held at Potomac.

C. G. LAYTON

C. G. Layton was born on a farm north of Potomac, and grew up on the farm. He took a course in Eastern Illinois College, and taught in Murphy and Wallace Chapel Schools. During his first years as school teacher he received thirty dollars a month for his services. He later attended Worthington Business College in Chicago.

In 1887, he started a hardware store in Penfield, Illinois later selling it to D. M. Hedrick. He then came to Potomac and started the grocery business. In 1907, he sold out and went to Danville, and then spent a few years in Tennessee and Mississippi.

In 1916 he came back to Potomac and engaged in the grocery business until the time of his death.

DAVID R. LAYTON

David R. Layton, farmer and stock raiser, was born in New York on October 16, 1829. He lived for a short time in Ohio and later in Indiana. He then came to Vermilion County. He married Martha Wilson in 1859. They were the parents of Charley, Annie E., Coburn Grant, and William. He managed a ditching machine and by economy and industry acquired one hundred sixty-seven acres of land valued at \$35 per acre.

ALVA C. LEONARD

Alva Leonard, publishing the Potomac Record, was the youngest newspaper editor of Vermilion County and undoubtedly one of the youngest in the state. He was born January 4, 1889, on a farm about 3½ miles north and ¼ of a mile east of Potomac. This was the home of his parents, Berry Franklin and Emma Jane (Swisher) Leonard, with whom he remained until after he had completed his education. He attended the district schools until about twelve years of age and afterward pursued his studies in the Potomac schools until 1907, when he entered the Brown Business College at Danville. During the vacation periods he worked with his father in the fields

and after completing his business course in Danville, he spent a short time in travel. Entering the field of business, he was employed for a brief period in the shops of the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad at Danville, after which he returned to Potomac.

The following summer, he became bookkeeper and general yardman in connection with a lumber business, and on the 1st of March, 1910, he purchased the Potomac Record from E. A. and C. R. Barnes. Following the lead of the city newspapers, he has given away a number of prizes, among these being a fine piano. Such a gift is very unusual for a newspaper in a town the size of Potomac.

On the 4th of May, 1910, Mr. Leonard was married to Miss Charlotte Alma French, who was born February 1, 1891, a daughter of Henry S. and Sarah (Endicott) French, who were among the early settlers of Vermilion County.



Mr. Hugh Lucky

MR. HUGH LUCKEY

Mr. Hugh Luckey was born November 2, 1873, the son of George and Mary Morehead Luckey and was reared on a farm near Potomac. He was a stockman and farmer by vocation. He attended the public school in Potomac and was graduated from Potomac High School. On September 5, 1898, he married Miss Laura Smith and they had four sons and four daughters. He had an interest in affairs of his community and was president of the school board, mem-

ber of the Methodist Church and a 32nd Degree Mason. As a member of the Danville Consistory he was active in the semi-annual reunions and was sponsor of one of the largest classes for the Scottish Rite Degree.

His long public career included membership on the Board of Supervisors at the time the county-wide system of highways was being built in 1918. He also served as board chairman in 1921.

Mr. Luckey first was elected to the Illinois General Assembly as a representative in 1922 on the Republican Ticket. He served continuously until 1936 when he was the candidate of his party for Congress from the 18th District. In the election he was defeated by the late James A. Meeks, but in 1940, he returned to the State Legislature. A special election two years later elevated him to the upper house, following the accidental death of Senator John Speak, Danville. He was re-elected to the Senate in 1944 for a full term of four years.

A member of numerous important committees in the Senate, Mr. Luckey was chairman of the committee on motor vehicles and traffic regulations. He also was the author of many bills during his long legislative career, being particularly interested in agriculture, schools, motor vehicle traffic, roads and bridges.

Mr. Luckey, 73, died December 29, 1946, in Lake View Hospital after being seriously ill for 3 weeks from a heart ailment, ending his activity in county and state public life for more than twenty-five years.

His living children are: Al G. Luckey; Tracy G. Luckey; Mary Foster; and Martha Hedrick.



Alva Montgomery

ALVA MONTGOMERY

Alva Montgomery was born March 11, 1899. He was one of four children. After leaving grade school, he went to work for Lou Wilber as a delivery boy for Wilber General Store. He did this work for about 2 years. He then went to work at the Wilber Goodwine Garage from 1915 until the World War. In 1918, he was called into the service.

Returning to his home town, he went into business for himself. He established the Potomac Tire Service on Jan. 1, 1920, and became a Ford dealer in 1928. After 20 years in the business, he sold out and went to farming.

He was a member of the Methodist Church, Past Master of the Potomac Lodge No. A. F. and A. M., a charter member of Steadman Post No. 485 American Legion and charter member of the Lions Club.

He married Hazel Gutteridge on June 25, 1900, and they had one son, Alva, Jr.



May Family

THE MAY FAMILY

The May family originated in Virginia. In the late seventeen hundreds they came to what is known as Maysville, Kentucky. In the early eighteen hundreds, Frank May and his brother George A. May came to Marysville, known now as Potomac. Frank May married Susan Wilson. One son was born to them whom they named John C. May, on December 20, 1874. At that time they were living across the Blue Grass Creek opposite the present home of Jack and Ann Prillaman. They moved from there to a settlement of eight houses located on a raise known as the Indian Mound in Buckner's Bottom across the river from Berry's Grist Mill, just below the old Goodwine Park.

John worked at the brick yard south of Marysville, now Potomac, located on the site where Lynn and Margaret Henry's home now stands. This brick yard was operated by Charley Shain, father of Velma Reardon who still lives in Potomac.

John was one of the graduating students of the class of 1893, from Potomac High School. The other one was Myrtle Buckingham Harrison. He taught school for a short time, but decided that being confined to a schoolroom was not for him, so he learned the carpenter trade.

On June 27, 1904, he married Ida May Brooks of Newtown, Ill. They were the parents of three children. John, Jr. died in infancy. Eva married Harry Hoskins, and they were the parents of ten children: John, Harry, Richard, Gordon Robert, Eva, Adam, Albert, Lester, Harold and Esther. George Alden May married Alice Rouse of Oakwood, Illinois, and they have two sons, Daryl and Gary both of Clearwater, Florida. Daryl married Marilyn Ellett, and Gary married Donna Hock of Gifford. Both Daryl and Gary have three children each.

John May loved the outdoors, he hunted and fished the year around. In his younger days he was a member of a well-known quartette consisting of Elmer Moreland and the Cossairt brothers, all of whom are deceased.

JOSEPH MOSS

Joseph Moss, farmer and stock raiser, was born near Madison, Ohio on March 20, 1820. When he was four years of age he came with his parents to this state. He married Delila Staar on April 17, 1845. They were the parents of three children. Mr. Moss was regarded as an outstanding citizen of Vermilion County. He was a school director for ten years and a commissioner of highways for several years. He clearly recollected plenty of wolves and Indians when he came to this county.

ELMER MORELAND

Following his mother's and father's deaths, he was forced to make his own way at an early age. He was four when his mother died, and ten when his father passed away.)

His first business venture was at the T. W. Buckingham Grocery store where he and Clyde Buckingham started the first free delivery service in Potomac. They used a spotted pony and buckboard wagon. He later worked two years in the brickyard near the town; while still in school he did the janitor work for the building. He was one of the first graduates of Potomac High School and taught school

seven years, riding horseback to classes. He did his own janitor work along with teaching for a salary of \$35 per month. Later he taught in Potomac Public School. He entered a partnership in the insurance business with J. B. Payne beginning thirty-six years of Payne and Moreland Agency. On Payne's retirement, he continued the business until 1953, when after fifty years of service he retired.

He was director of Potomac School thirty-four years. He served as president of both high and grade school boards and headed the board when the high school was built in 1939. He was a member of the village board, township clerk and director of the Potomac Building and Loan for fifty-four years.

He married Ary Goodwine, and they had one daughter, Ary. Later, he married Estella Thomas and they had two daughters and a son. (Claribel, Virginia and Thomas)

JESSE L. PARTLOW

Jesse L. Partlow, farmer, owned 160 acres of land, and 2 houses and lots in Marysville. He was born in Nelsow County, Kentucky on June 13, 1826. When he was 3 years of age his family moved to this township. Consequently, he was one of Vermilion County's earliest settlers.

In 1848, he married Rachel Davison who was born in this county in 1829. Nine children were born to them. Mr. Partlow was a school director for fifteen years and a pathmaster for five years.

J. B. PAYNE

James B. Payne was born March 11, 1857, in Danville, the son of John and Priscilla Payne. He attended school at the old Red Seminary in Danville. He became an orphan at the age of eight years and was given a home by the family of his half brother, Captain A. G. and Rhoda Payne, Newton, Illinois. He later moved to Catlin, Illinois.

In 1877, he married Hettie Onmure Warner from Newton, and set up housekeeping in Catlin as Mr. Payne had an interest in the old Goings Coal Shaft near there. They had two children: Lena V. and a son who died in infancy.

In 1884, they moved to Potomac and he operated a grocery store. He was also postmaster one term during the administration of Grover Cleveland. In 1889, he sold the grocery store and devoted his time to writing insurance. In 1903, he and C. E. Moreland formed a partnership in the insurance business. The firm was called Payne and Moreland.

Mrs. Payne died November 18, 1932, and Mr. Payne died February 23, 1939.

CHARLES E. PRESSEY

Charles E. Pressey, merchant, owned a hardware and tin store on Main Street in Marysville. He owned the lot on which the store stood along with 36 other lots.

He was born in Tompkins County, New York, on November 25, 1837. He came to Illinois in 1859. He married Emily Stewart. Mr. Pressey was a village trustee for three years. He was appointed postmaster at Potomac in 1876.

LOUIS HERMAN PINNO

Louis Herman Pinno was born in Fondulac, Wisconsin. He was 1 of 7 children in the family. He received his education in Wisconsin.

In 1911, he took up the art of cooking, and for 9 years was chef on some of the fastest deluxe trains. He spent 3 years with the C E & I, 2 years with the Golden State, a crack passenger and pullman train on the Rock Island, the run being from Chicago to Los Angeles. New York Central employed him for 4 years, his run being on the celebrated Twentieth Century Limited.

He decided to make a change and came to Potomac in 1921, purchasing a restaurant and keeping it until 1928, when it was sold. He went to Danville and became proprietor of the "Chocolate Shop." He then gave up this shop and came back to Potomac to the cafe business. Retiring, he moved to Newell Road where he and his wife live. He married Hazel Farnsworth on March 14, 1914.

ALBERT RICE

Albert Rice was born in 1877 to William H. and Caroline Sperry Rice; the 7th child. He learned the 3 R's at Knights Branch School about 5 miles south-west of Potomac.

He then went through high school graduating in 1900, and he may be the oldest alumnus of Potomac High. He went to State Normal for more education and after graduating he returned to Potomac, and was employed two years at Wallace Chapel and 2 years in the Potomac Grade School.

Growing tired of teaching, he entered the business world and in 1905 he entered the Potomac National Bank as bookkeeper, serving the following 5 years in that capacity, afterward being promoted to cashier, serving for the next 13 years. When the bank was sold in January, 1923, Mr. Rice became President of the new organization and remained in that capacity until 1929.

In 1929, a merger of the Potomac National Bank and that of the Goodwine State Bank became effective, and he held the position of cashier.

He served on the Town Board for the first period for 4 years, and then the following 24 years as President of the Village Board. He was the school treasurer and in 1928, was tax collector when the township collected their own taxes.

He was a member of the U.B. Church, Potomac Lodge No. 782, A.F. and A.M., the Consistory and a charter member of the Potomac Lion's Club.

On October 13, 1909, he married Cora Goodwine, and they had one son, Gordon Rice.

C. L. SHAIN

Charles Lincoln Shain was born near Potomac January 20, 1861, the son of Francis Shain. He was a retired building contractor and Middleford Township assessor. He also served as a member of the Potomac village board, village clerk and rural mail carrier.

He married Sarah Cochian and they had 3 sons and 3 daughters: Leone, Velma, Lucille, Everett, Paul, and Glen.

A. G. SMITH

A. G. Smith, farmer and stock dealer, was born in Vermilion County on June 5, 1855. He was the son of John Smith (English) and Adaline Moorehead. By 1879, he was shipping 10 to 15 carloads of cattle every year as well as some hogs.

He was married on October 7, 1875, to Lizzie Wilkie who was born in Scotland. They were the parents of John C. and Laura who married Hugh Luckey. He later married Florence Young and they were the parents of Aleen and A. G.

Mr. Smith owned several hundred acres of land.

PERRY EDGAR RIEGLE

Perry Edgar Riegle was born in Lafayette, Indiana in 1867. He received his schooling in that vicinity. In early manhood, he took up the trade of painting and then he shifted to plumbing, working his apprenticeship years in Lafayette.

He came to Potomac in 1904 and took a position with Frank Henry who was proprietor of a hardware store. He then went into the plumbing business. Although George Borrer was associated with him for 17 years, it was not until 1934 that they became partners, establishing the plumbing firm of Riegle and Borrer.

He served one term as highway commissioner and was a charter member of the Potomac Lions Club. On Nov. 21, 1895, he married Abbie Searls. They had one daughter, Mary Riegle Lynch.



George Satterfield

JOHN SMITH (English)

John Smith, farmer, was born in England in February, 1824. He came to the state of New York in 1834, but came to Illinois in 1836. He married Adaline Moorhead in 1844. They were the parents of 4 children: Martha J., Alvin G., Robert H., and Laura J.

Mr. Smith owned 3,000 acres of land worth \$30 per acre. He fattened several hundred cattle each year. He was a successful business man.

JOHN SMITH (plain)

John Smith came here from Pennsylvania in 1845. He came with a four-horse team which he traded for a piece of land. He accumulated considerable property in and around Marysville. He was the first to build a store there and was postmaster for awhile, and had a large influence on its early prosperity.

AZARIAH SOLLARS

Azariah Sollars was born November 14, 1875, in Eugene, Indiana, the son of Truman and Susan Conrad Sollars. He married Elizabeth Ann Spain on August 14, 1901. His schooling began at Blue Grass and finished at Wallace Chapel. He then took up farming.

In 1903, he was told of an opening for a rural mail carrier in Potomac. He prepared and rode horseback to Danville to take the Civil Service Exam. He was later notified of the appointment. He owned one horse and had to borrow money to buy a second to make up the team needed for deliveries. His first month's pay was fifty silver dollars. He made his deliveries by various modes of transportation: horseback, horse and buggy, klondike wagon, bicycle, motorcycle and automobile. In 1934, he retired after more than thirty years of civil service work.

Mr. & Mrs. Sollars had nine children: Josie, Cecil, Francis, Mae, Inez, Curtis, Glenn, Grace, and Harry. He passed away on October 3, 1966.

JESSE STONE

Jesse Stone was born September 17, 1871. He was the son of Wm. E. and Caroline Day Stone. He attended rural schools, No. 1 and No. 4, near Ellis. After leaving the grades, he went to Normal University. Returning to Potomac, he took up teaching. He taught at Central for 2 years, south of Henning, 3 years in Potomac and 1 year as principal in Alvin.

His father had established the lumber yard business on May 1, 1891, wishing help from his sons, Jesse and his brother Charles. They assumed management of the yard and for 10 years were together. On Jan 1, 1909, Jesse purchased his brother's interest and became the sole owner.

He was the town clerk for 2 years and was secretary of the high school for 3 years. He was a member of the Methodist Church, Potomac Lodge No. 782 A. F. and A. M. and was the secretary and a charter member of the Lions Club.

He married Josie Smith on Christmas Day, 1894. They had 2 children: Helen and George Stone.

FRANK TALBOTT

Frank William Talbott was born on March 25, 1882 at Gifford, Illinois. The Talbott family moved to the Potomac area in 1911.

He started his career as a thresherman in 1907 as a partner with John Siddens. After 2 years as a partner, he decided to purchase his own rig which was a 16 horsepower advance engine and a 36 ad-

vance thresher. After moving to Potomac, he added a corn sheller and an 8 bottom plow to his machine fleet which was used for his custom work. However, the 16 horsepower engine was not large enough to pull the 8 bottom plow and a new 22 horsepower engine was put in service in 1914.

Mr. Talbott became very popular with the area farmers. His work was very satisfactory.

He soon added a new threshing rig to his machine fleet. This rig was a much smaller one in size. At this time, steam engines were getting too slow to move on the roads; therefore, a kerosene burning engine was put in service known as a 14-28 Rumley Oil Pull and a 28 inch Rumley thresher which made up the complete rig. This was a wise move as the tractor replaced the steam engine on the corn sheller in the winter time.

Business was growing and the small rig was replaced in 1920 by a 20-40 Rumley tractor and a large thresher. The equipment remained as such until 1927.

The combine harvester was used in the northwest. Mr. Talbott could see the advantages of having such a machine, so he purchased a 20 ft. combine and had it shipped to the northwest part of Minnesota and was then shipped back to Illinois to cut beans in the fall. After two seasons in the northwest, the machine stayed in Illinois. Approximately 1,000 acres were harvested a season.

Mr. Talbott could see new and better ways of doing things. He decided to mount the corn sheller on a truck chassis and this was completed in 1930. It was a great success. Moving from job to job, the time was reduced 50%. This enabled him to shell 550,000 bushels of corn in a season.

As time passed by, the threshing rigs were discontinued. The corn shellers were updated on late model truck chassis.

Mr. Talbott was mechanically minded and predicted that someday the combine harvester would replace all other methods of harvesting crops that are grown in the vast farming areas in the United States.

WILLIAM HENRY TAYLOR

William Henry Taylor was born in Thorntown, Indiana on July 12, 1833. He married Mary Catherine Stephens in 1851. To this union were born William Taylor, Charley Taylor, James Taylor, Edward Taylor, and also Ella Bernet and Myne Scott.

He came to Marysville (which is now Potomac) in 1847. He camped under a large elm tree in the southwest end of town where Clark Morris' residence now stands. The ground around this tree was a swamp. He was a horse and mule trader by trade. He came to Illinois to work on the Narrow Gauge

Railroad which was to extend from Danville to Blue Grass; Blue Grass was then the county seat of Vermilion County. Danville was later made the county seat of Vermilion County and the work on the railroad was abandoned.

He built a small house by the electric light plant on the June Goodwine lot. He had a good many horses and rigs which were used to take the traveling men to different towns and in the country. He later moved his livery barn to a building where Potomac Equipment Company is located.

Grandad was well-liked by the people of the town. He loved to tell stories about his experiences and life. People would sit and listen to these stories for hours.

He died October 4, 1921, at the age of 84 years.

B. D. WISE

B. D. Wise was born in Hardy County, West Virginia, December 3, 1844, and was the son of Zebulon and Indiana (Skidmore) Wise. The father was born on the old Virginia homestead of the family, but when the shadows of war were about to darken the land, he left the South (March 11, 1861), and came to Middlefork township where he rented land and farmed for 2 years. Zebulon returned to his home in Virginia (the ownership of which he retained), and there he died in 1882. Mrs. Wise came to Vermilion County to visit her son, B. D. Wise, and here she departed from this life in 1900.

B. D. Wise was educated in the public schools of Virginia, and when he became a resident of Vermilion County, was 16 years old. At the beginning of the Civil War he was too young, but by 1863, he enlisted as a member of Company E., Fifty-first Illinois Infantry, and served for three years. He was in many major battles in the South, was prisoner for 5 months and confined at the Andersonville prison. At the close of the war, having performed his duty at all times as a defender of the cause which he advocated with all his heart, he was honorably discharged and returned to Potomac, where he began working by the month on a farm.

With his savings he bought 80 acres of land north of East Lynn and later became the owner of a farm in Middlefork Township.

With Hon. J. G. Cannon, he owned 560 acres of land in Oakwood Township. He was a director and stockholder and also one of the organizers of the National Bank of Potomac. From 1889 to 1911 he was a director of the Building and Loan Association of Potomac. He served for 18 years as a member of the county board of supervisors and for 2 years as president of the board. He was truly a self-made man.

MR. ROBERT YOUNG

Robert Young was born in Potomac, Jan. 1, 1858, and was the son of David and Mildred Young. His wife was born Jan. 24, 1869, near Terre Haute, the daughter of Benjamin and Mary Franklin. They were married Feb. 4, 1886, at the home of A. G. Smith, northwest of Potomac by the Rev. Joe Scott. They came to their home which was owned by Mrs. Young's brother, Thomas Young, as bride and groom, and later moved to Crawford County where they lived 10 years before returning to Potomac. Mr. Young was a farmer, livestock buyer for 15 years, and owned the local meat market 3 different times.

Mr. & Mrs. Young had 2 children: a daughter, Cleo Tennyson, and a son, Ralph Young. They also reared Mrs. Young's half brother, Arch Franklin and a grandson, Robert Tennyson.

OTHER PIONEERS

Isaac Meneley, Robert Marshall, James Colwell, Douglass Moore, Lloyd and M. W. Graves, Joseph Jameson, Dr. Ingalls, Rigden Potter, Charles Sargent, George A. May, Ben Biddlecome, L. D. Hornbeck, Jesse Lane, M. V. Robins, Charles T. Morse, S. P. Starr, T. D. Austin, Isaac Brown, T. J. Haney, S. Clapp, Caleb Albert, William O. Payne, John W. Duncan, R. G. Young, Walter Smith, M. C. Doney, John M. Davis, J. C. Merrill, Charles B. Westcott, James F. Anderson, W. A. McMurtrey, L. B. Marshall, James D. Anderson, James Wilson, Thomas Carter, George W. Young, H. E. Thomas, George Satterfield, and Andrew G. Copeland.



Frank Golliday Family—Frank, Blanche, Ida, Mary and Lloyd Golliday.



Hoskins



Ruth (8 years) and Harold (6 years)
Nash, 1907-1908.



Frank Payne

Early Business

CAN YOU REMEMBER WHEN THEY DROVE THIS?

Alexander, Jesse	Ford	Kinney, George	Ford
Alexander, J. C.	Ford	Kieser, C. A.	Haynes
Alexander, Samuel	Ford	Lane, Victor	Maxwell
Alexander, S. A. D.	Ford	Larkin, Iva C.	Ford
Armantrout, H.	Overland	Leonard, G. W.	Haynes
Ashwood, John	Ford	Luckey, H. M.	Haynes
Auth, Adam J.	Ford	Lynch, C. J.	Ford
Baril, Oscar	Ford	Lyons, I. H.	Studebaker
Beadle, Jacob	Ford	Martin, J. C.	Ford
Bennett, Thomas M.	Ford	McGlaughlin, E. A.	Auburn
Bennett, T. M.	Auburn	Miles, C. G.	Oldsmobile
Blackford, C. F.	Metz	Miles, Charles W.	Ford
Blair, H.	Ford	Miller, S.	Maxwell
Bradley, J. S.	Ford	Mooney, M. E.	Ford
Bruner, F.	Reo	Moore, John	Ford
Burton, Rev. George E.	Overland	Morris, E.	Ford
Carpenter, Delos	Studebaker	Morris, Harry	Reo
Chapman, J. F.	Maxwell	Moyer, W. H.	Hudson
Collison, E. E.	Ford	Musser, John M.	Ford
Cooper, John E.	Ford	Nixon, William W.	Ford
Cossairt, D. Sep.	Ford	Perry, Mrs. Mary L.	Ford
Courtney, J. W.	Ford	Rice, C.	Cole Six and Ford
Creighton, E. C.	Auburn	Rice, I. A.	Ford
Creighton, Frank	Auburn	Roberts, Ase	Auburn
Creighton, Harold W.	Ford	Roe, Joseph H.	Ford
Creighton, J. W.	Chalmers	Rusk, F. P.	Cole
Davis, J. I.	Ford	Schrug, W. A.	Overland
Downing, F. C.	Ford	Severns, J. F.	Haynes
Dukes, W. L.	Ford	Shumaker, George	Ford
Duncan, Albert	Ford	Smith, J. Curtis	Moline Knight
Duncan, C. T.	Haynes	Staley, Mrs. A. E.	Ford
Ermentrout, A. E.	Haynes	Swisher, Martin	Ford
Fairchild, Edward	Ford	Talbott, A.	Ford
Firebaugh, J. M.	Auburn Six	Talbott, C. J.	Reo
Farrow, A. A.	Chalmers and Graut Six	Talbott, F. W.	Haynes
Goodwine, Everett	Ford	Talbott, J. W.	Ford
Goodwine, John	Ford	Tillotson, D. C.	Regal and Ford
Goodwine, W. H.	Auburn and Ford	Vanatta, J. E.	Ford
Griffith, J. M.	Reo	Vliet, James A.	Auburn
Hambleton, C. W.	Ford	Wallace, J. E.	Ford
Harris, F. D.	Ford	Watts, Jacob	Ford
Heckerson, A. H.	Saxto	Wertz, Ed	Saxon
Heckerson, A. H.	Saxon Six	Weston, Mrs. S.	Cole
Henry, Charles V.	Ford	Whittington, J. A.	Ford
Humphrey, T. J.	Maxwell	Williams, James	Haynes
Hunt, E. L.	Oldsmobile	Williams, L. C.	Ford
Ingersoll, C. W.	Ford	Wilson, Everett W.	Dodge
Johnson, G.	Ford	Wilson, G. M.	Patterson
Johnson, Peter	E. M. F.	Wilson, Homer	Ford
Johnson, W. K.		Wilson, W. H.	Ford
Johnson, W. K.	Ford	Wise, E. J.	Ford
Judy, Charles W.	Ford	Woods, A. H.	Oldsmobile
Judy, E. Grant	Ford	Wright, H. C.	Auburn
		Wyman, E. D.	Auburn



Duncan Brothers: Fred, Alma and Claude



Inside of Grant Layton grocery store.

The House Of Quality

Layton Mercantile Company

QUALITY COUNTS

I would rather sell you one good article, than to sell you 100 poor ones.



I would rather have one satisfied customer than to have 100 dissatisfied ones.



Now, if you are one of the 100 dissatisfied customers, we welcome you to our store and will soon have you numbered with our satisfied ones.



Here, you get both QUALITY and PRICE.



Does it pay? Will it pay you to be numbered with the right ones? It certainly will. Well, here we are. All tight. Shake.

C. G. LAYTON

PHONE 17

Potomac

Illinois

BUSINESS PLACES IN 1918

American Express Co.
 Artesian Cabinet Works
 Artesian Hotel
 Biederman, Herman—Shoemaker
 Blackford Bros.—General Store
 Copeland, W.H. & Son—Furniture & Undertaking
 Copeland, H.S.—Undertaking
 Corkery, Dr. T.W.—Veterinarian
 Cossairt, Dr. S.A.—Physician
 Duncan Bros.—Hardware & Implements
 Fox, R.O.—Furniture
 Fox, Mrs. R.O.—Millinery
 Furrow, Arch—Garage & Repairing
 Goodwine Bank—John J. Goodwine, Jr., Prop.
 Goodwine, Wilbur H.—Garage & Auto Supplies
 Griffin, Alvin H.—Jeweler & Optometrist
 Griffin, Lulu—Millinery
 Harper, K. A.—Grain
 Hickman, Otto W.—Printing & Plumbing
 Hoth, J.—Blacksmith
 Howell, J. C.—Well Driller
 Jameson, J. E.—Barber
 Judy Industrial School
 Layton, John—Drugs
 Layton, C. G.—General Store
 Layton Mercantile Co.
 Magruder, Thomas O.—Saw Mill, etc.
 McMillen, G.—Meats
 Nixon, Jesse T.—Groceries & Photographer

Payne, John W.—General Store
 Payne and Moreland—General Insurance
 Potomac Electric Light Plant
 Potomac National Bank
 Potomac Record—Newspaper
 Rader, Wint—Blacksmith
 Ransom, Dr. C. C.—Physician
 Rice, A.—Real Estate
 Riegle and Moss—Tinner & Plumbing
 Standard Oil Company
 Stone, Jess—Lumber, Coal, Implements, Hardware, Etc.
 Tennyson, Clause H.—Restaurant
 Walters, Dr. J. T.—Dentist
 West, Robert—Blacksmith
 Wilbur, Louis W.—General Store
 Wilson, R. Co.—Lighting
 Young, Robert C.—Meats



The Livery Barn, 1902: Frank Deamude and Son.



Making tile in early days—Thomas Youn at right.



Looking east on State Street—a colt and stock show, Oct. 1907.



THE HOTEL

The Old Hotel

The hotel on Vermilion Street was a large one. It was owned and operated by Del Roe and his wife. It was always filled with drummers who came to town to sell their goods to the stores. On June 2, 1905, Del Roe, the bully of the town, was shot and killed and his brother, John Roe, was shot and seriously wounded by Boone Baty. Del Roe died at his hotel about an hour after he was shot. Baty had been a target of their abusive language and blows. When he came into town that afternoon, the two brothers jumped on him to give him a beating "just for fun" and one of them said Baty drew a revolver and fired twice, both shots taking effect, Boone Baty had a trial and was freed because he testified Del Roe shot first. The judge was Frank Martin who freed Baty in the small courthouse located where the Downs Restaurant is located.

This Hotel was known also as the Artesian Hotel and rates as follows:

A meal	\$.25
Bed and lodging	.50
Board per week	3.50
Traveling public cordially invited	
William M. Combs, Proprietor May 7, 1897	



Inside the Hotel



Jess Stone's Lumber and Hardware store—Tom Young 2nd from right, Jesse Stone on right.



Jesse Stone Lumber Yard 1902



OPERA HOUSE

The Opera House was located on the second floor of the Jesse Stone building on Main Street where plays were put on. Some taking parts were Albert Rice, Mabel Kirkhart, Hazel Reeves, Charles Jester and Palmer Smith. Later silent movies came along and a colored boy by the name of Roy Morris played the piano. Sometimes dances were held in the opera house and later the talking movies were held there until a fire which was caused by a film exploding did considerable damage ending the era of the opera house.

MOVING PICTURES

—AT—

THE OPERA HOUSE
POTOMAC, ILL.

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT

First Class Pictures Featuring
the Most Popular Actors and
Actresses in Motion Pictures

POPULAR PRICES

FRED TAYLOR, MANAGER

Entertainment

Back—John Morrison, Candace Jester, Charles Furrow, Alvin Griffin; Front—Alva Leonard, Arch Furrow, Earl Young.

MOVIES IN POTOMAC

In the late teens or early twenties Sam Aldridge and family moved to Potomac. He had a restaurant where the Village Discount Store is and a movie picture place next to it, where the J&J Pizza is in business now. Ina Aldridge Taylor played the piano for her father during the shows.

In the course of a few years the movie place closed. Later the men of the American Legion showed movies in the old Opera House which was over Pinno's Restaurant—now torn down and the area is a display place for Potomac Implement Company's farm machinery. Music for the Legion's shows was furnished by Roy Morris, Ina Taylor or Nelle Bennett whichever was available the night of the show.

Another use of the Opera House was for Home Talent Shows. It was well suited for many presentations because it had a curtained stage in the north end with "drop curtains" to thus provide scenery for the various Vaudeville Acts that were given by professionalists or by Medicine Show people.

Some of the local people who had a part in the Home Talent Shows were: Palmer Smith, Albert Rice, Elmer Moreland, Mabel Kirkhart, Hazel Johnson, Vesta Goodwine and Cora Rice.



First bank in Potomac was located where Building and Loan is today and the Mason Hall.



Village Hall where Library is located.



E. J. Norton Blacksmithing and Horse Shoeing. Bill Newberry and Bob Jameson.

M. Hefferan—Practical House Mover
 Joseph Judy—Notary Public & Police Magistrate
 John James—Meat Market
 Taylor Bros.—Livery and Feed Stable
 Messer & Son—General Store
 Buckingham & Co.—General Store
 Emma Albert—Millinery Shop
 Mrs. R. G. Young—Millinery Shop
 Elliotts Restaurant
 J. B. Payne—Grocery Store
 C. M. Cordell—Drug and Medicine
 J. B. Moss—General Hardward, Heating and Cookstoves

Buckingham & Co.—General Store
 H. Marxmiller—Harness Shop
 Aldrich & Flanigan—Blacksmith & Woodwork
 Rachel Anderson—Hats
 A. B. Duncan—Implement Dealer
 Mrs. M. A. Littler—Millinery
 J. B. Courtney—Police Magistrate & Notary
 C. F. Habel—Watch & Jewelry Repair
 Charles Huffman—Liveryman
 W. L. Bentley—Harness Repairing
 L. Wilber Co.—Cash Corner Store
 Jennie Marlatt—Millinery Store
 C. G. Layton—Department Store
 G. L. Moore—Photography
 J. M. Crayton—Real Estate & Attorney-At-Law
 J. B. Payne—Insurance
 H. S. Copeland—Funeral Director
 Col. Geo. Shoemaker—Auctioneer
 J. O. Brien—Auctioneer (1908)



South side of Main Street.

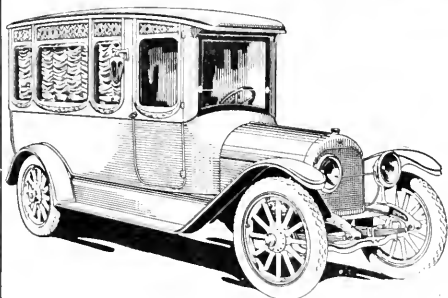
W. H. COPELAND & SON

OLDEST FIRM IN POTOMAC

FURNITURE DEALERS

AND

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



MOTOR HEARSE AND AMBULANCE SERVICE
AT REASONABLE RATES

We carry a full line of Furniture, Rugs,
Carpets, Queensware, Etc., at all times.
Our many years in business in Potomac
is a standing guarantee of quality and
price at our store.

W. H. COPELAND & SON.

PHONES: STORE 3. RES. 34 AND 35

POTOMAC

☐ ☐

☐ ☐

ILLINOIS

Modern machinery has changed a lot of things
about farming, most of them for the better. But
it seems with each improvement we lose some of
the nostalgia of farming and the things it is
made of.



Working on the road: Zeb Wise in cab. Evers
Landis with rake, and Jim Jackson.



Brick making south of town and Charles Shain,
last owner to run the brick yard.

ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT

There was an electric light plant in the north-
west part of town. It generated enough electricity
for Henning, Armstrong and Potomac. People
usually had one or two *drops*, as they were called,
in the parlor and dining rooms. Lamps were gener-
ally used. Emma Shain was collector. The plant
was located on the corner of Logan and Wilson.



Working at gravel pit on Jameson farm East
of town.



Cutting and shocking oats in early days.



Roy and George Putnam's first combine in 1935.



Shelling corn on James Parson's farm west of Potomac. Frank and Carl Talbott, 1937.



Lewis Thornton, Robert Knoll Jr., Henry Thornton, Robert Knoll Sr., Bernard Wilson, Robert Thornton, Edwin Knoll, Leslie Fredrickson, George Shumaker.

Railroad



RAILROAD

The narrow 3-foot gauge railroad was built almost entirely through the unaided efforts of Mr. Benjamin Gifford and the Penfield brothers of Rantoul. This line opened up the market to a wide belt of rich agricultural country, extending the entire width of our Vermilion County. The annual shipments of livestock and grain would astonish citizens if they would take the pains to consult the statistics of the business of this company and see the enormous tonnage of this seemingly little, though important, line.

The Havana and Rantoul and Eastern Railroad runs through the township from east to west, a mile south of its center at Marysville, a pleasant little village of 400 or 500 inhabitants, built on the prairie, but nearly surrounded by timber, on section 3 (21-13). The land is pleasantly rolling, and capable of easy drainage to the creek.

Mr. Gifford, the president of the company lived in Rantoul. He came and called a meeting in 1874, and explained what he proposed to do. He wanted a stock subscription of \$2,000 per mile. The citizens had heard a good deal of railroad talk before, and had not much confidence in this, but

subscribed some \$16,000. The road was completed to Alvin by Christmas, 1876, and from Alvin to West Lebanon in 1878, and from Rantoul, west to LeRoy in 1879. The trains freight and passengers ran daily from LeRoy, Illinois, to West Lebanon, Indiana. Its shops and offices were in Rantoul. The little railroad never did reach across the state to Havana as planned, but did have a fantastic history.

Gifford gained the reputation of being somewhat eccentric by demanding nothing but gold payments in his dealings with the Illinois Central. Nevertheless, when his company began foundering in 1880, he wrote President Ackerman of the Illinois Central in an attempt to sell the little railroad. When Gifford failed, he approached none other than the famous railroad baron, Jay Gould, who bought the narrow gauge line and merged it for 6 years with the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific. During these hectic years, it went into receivership twice and eventually was auctioned off for \$100,000. The buyer was none other than Anthony J. Thomas, an officer of the famous Hill railroad empire of the northwest. It was Thomas who negotiated with the Illinois Central for its lease. In 1887 the Illinois Central consolidated its holdings and took over the operation of the narrow gauge line, which was rebuilt to standard gauge. It's interesting

to note that 2 of the most famous railroad organizers in American history—Jay Gould and Edward H. Harriman—were presidents of the little railroad and the famous Hill empire also had a hand in its history.

Today this part of the Illinois Central system is on the Rantoul District of the Illinois Division with headquarters in Champaign.

The Illinois Central replaced the old steam engine with a diesel, which weighs 70 tons more. The tracks changed in 1878 to standard gauge.



From the looks of the crowd gathered on the platform, the Illinois Central train shown stopping at Potomac, IL, in 1910 got plenty of passengers and attention. This was a freight station on the 51-mile Rantoul District of the I.C. which extended from Potomac to the east to Leroy, IL, on the west. A horse standing by the depot was eyeing the puffing locomotive with suspicion even though it was an iron brother!



THE DEPOT

In its day, the depot was to Potomac what the modern airport is to a city today. People arrived in town at the depot and departed at the depot. Many of our ancestors arrived in the area at the depot. Many people rode the train to visit relatives and in the teens and twenties high school students boarded the train to go to nearby cities to further their education.

Merchants ordered new merchandise and it was delivered at the depot. The mail arrived daily at the depot, and telegrams were received there. Our depot was torn down in 1968. Potomac had 2 passenger trains and 2 freight trains daily.

About 1912 to 1914, an excursion train ran to Barlow Park in Alvin on Sundays. There were boat rides, ballgames and all kinds of entertainment. Families took their dinners and stayed from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The train would whistle for the people to come back aboard for the trip home.

The first agent was John Littler. Some of the other depot agents were: Charlie Nelson, Melvin Grey, Tom Cox, Lorene Thing and Max Clayton. Charles Smith from Armstrong was the engineer. Horace Sisk from Arcola was our last agent and still works at the depot in Rantoul.

The Potomac Rustler, May 7, 1897:

Illinois central Railroad Time Table:	Central
Trains Going East:	
Mail and Passenger	10:28
Local Freight	10:15
Trains Going West:	
Mail and Passenger	1:49
Local Freight	4:20
- J. A. Littler, Agent	

PLATTED AS MARYSVILLE
T. 21 N. R. 13 W.

T. 21 N. R. 13 W.



Doctors

DR. L. C. MESSNER

One of the pioneers of Potomac was Dr. L. C. Messner who settled in 1866 to practice medicine. The life of a country doctor was not easy in those days. When forced by his health to give up his practice, he ran a drugstore. Many of his friends got into the habit when having some money on hand to go in and have it put in his safe. To make it legal and safe, he organized the Bank of Marysville, which became Potomac.

John Goodwine was founder of the Goodwine State Bank, so Potomac had 2 banks until the depression days. Albert Rice was in charge of the National Bank, and his wife was a stockholder in the Goodwine Bank. They merged, and today Potomac has 1 bank.

JOHN E. P. BUTZ

John E. P. Butz, Potomac, physician, was born in Wyandot County, Ohio. His father moved to this state in 1853, settling in Decatur. His mother died when he was but seven years of age. Mr. Butz worked on a farm until twenty-one years of age. His chances for an early education were not very good. He entered Ann Arbor High School in 1871, and graduated in June, 1875. He commenced the study of medicine the same fall, and graduated at Rush Medical College in February, 1878. He commenced the practice of medicine in Potomac on the 1st of April, 1878. On the 25th of April, 1879, the doctor performed a surgical operation on a child for a hare-lip, a child of Mr. Buckingham, of Potomac. He was assisted in the operation by Dr. Messner, of Potomac. The operation was a success.

On the 24th of June, 1880, in Ladoga, Indiana, Dr. Butz was united in marriage to Miss Mabel F. Buckingham, and they had one son, Homer E., who married Beryl M. Osborn and they had two sons, Edmund and Frederick. Dr. Butz was a successful doctor in Potomac.

J. E. TUTTLE

J. E. Tuttle, physician, was born in Fountain County, Indiana, in 1844. In 1856, he became a resident of Vermilion County, locating at Marysville.

He began the study of medicine with Dr. C. D. Henton in 1862, and in '65 became a graduate of Rush Medical College of Chicago.

After graduating, he returned to Vermilion Co., and continued his practice at Blue Grass, where he had done some practice before graduating. He remained there until 1869. He then went to Marysville. He was engaged in practice there until 1874, when he moved to Danville where he became firmly established.

W. S. COSSAIRT, M.D.

Among the medical practitioners of Vermilion County who have earned success by conscientious application to their profession after years of thorough preparation is Dr. W. S. Cossairt, of Potomac.

He was born in Potomac, September 2, 1869, the son of William and Louisa (Smith) Cossairt. The father was born on a farm 7 miles east of Potomac, and the mother in the town.

Dr. Cossairt was educated in Vermilion County and 3 years in the Wesleyan University at Bloomington, Ill. He taught school for 3 years to earn money to become a student in Rush Medical College of Chicago, one of the great medical institutions of the country. He proved to be a highly promising student and was graduated with honors and the coveted title of M.D., in 1900.

Immediately upon leaving college he practiced for 7 years in Potomac by himself and then became associated with Dr. J. E. P. Butz of that place. As a general practitioner, Dr. Cossairt was, from the beginning of his career, successful—his equipment for the work having been thorough and practical.

On October 1, 1901, Dr. Cossairt was united in marriage to Miss Minerva Viola Acton of Potomac. They had 1 daughter: Louie Jane.

H. E. OGLE

H. E. Ogle was born in 1881 at Lewisville Rush County, Indiana.

He received his grade and high school education in Tipton and Howard Counties. After graduating from high school he taught school for 3 years in Howard County. He quit teaching, becoming a student again and graduated with a Pharmacy diploma in 1906.

He came to Attica and was a drug clerk for J. O. Reed and Son in 1907. He then moved to Hires, Iowa and for a year was a drug clerk. The next year he purchased a drugstore of his own at Avery, Iowa, keeping it for 2 years. Selling this store, he again invested in one at Donaldson retaining ownership until 1913. He then went to Chicago and entered the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery, graduating in 1916. He received his license to practice in Illinois on November 18, 1918.

He came to Armstrong and began his practice, and moved to Potomac 7 years later.

He married Mable Ida Carter on June 24, 1908, and they had 2 children: Kathryn and Jasper Ogle.

He was a member of Potomac Lodge No. 782 A. F. & A. M., the Baptist Church in Windfall, Indiana, Vermilion County Medical Society and a charter member of the Potomac Lions Club.

DOCTORS

Dr. R. Vandoren
Dr. John E. Butz
Dr. Sant Cossairt
Dr. H. E. Ogle
Dr. C. C. Ransom
Dr. Mayfield
Dr. Mahorney
Dr. Manuel Agusti



Dr. Agusti

DR. MANUEL AGUSTI

Dr. Manuel Agusti was born in Sagna la Gande, Cuba on July 25, 1915, his parents: Isolina and José.

He received his medical degree from Havana University School of Medicine in 1943. He came to the United States in 1944, and served internship at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, and at Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital in Binghamton, New York. He is a member of American Illinois State and Vermilion County Medical Association and American Academy of General Practice.

He came to Potomac in November, 1950 and started his general practice of medicine, staying for 22 years.

Dr. Agusti married Kathleen Cosden of Chester, Penn. August 24, 1946. They have 3 sons: twins José and Manuel; and Daniel, born while living in Potomac.

Dr. Agusti is now in active practice in Danville, Illinois.

Churches



POTOMAC FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Potomac First Church of Christ was organized by Rolla Martin, grandfather of our present member, Mrs. Lawrence Hudson, in 1860. Early services were held in the schoolhouse that originally stood on the Spain property on South Vernilion St., then known as South Main St. Special services, such as Revivals were held in the Methodist Church. Preaching was irregular, with Elders filling the pulpit. In 1874, monthly preaching services were held.

The early preachers through this country did not see much money. They expected little and got less, but the devoted preachers seldom turned home without something to show for their circuit ride. The good sisters generally had a "brace" of chickens, a roll of butter in a cloth. The pastor received these in lieu of bank notes which he feared would not be legal tender by the time of his return home.

In 1876, action was taken to erect its own church building. The congregation bought 60,000 bricks at a cost of \$480.00 to be used in erecting the building 30 ft. by 50 ft. The building was started in 1877, where the present building stands on

ground donated by George May, grandfather of our Alden May. The ground was to be church property as long as the church stands there. Mr. Charles Ingersoll laid the bricks for the building.

In 1877, five residents were appointed as trustees of the church. The meeting for this business was conducted in the Methodist Church of Marysville. Due to misunderstandings and wrongs in the building and management of the church it was re-organized in Potomac in 1886, praying to God to forgive each one of his wrong conceptions and to be restored back to Divine Favor.

For several years the walls stood without a roof. Completion was made and occupancy began in 1897. The church was then used as originally planned for more than 20 years previously.

In 1919, it was decided to add a room 30 ft. by 12 ft. on the south side of the building to be used as a choir loft and a classroom (this is the present baptistery area) and to make a basement and install a furnace. Up to this time the building was heated by a large stove located in the center of the room. Dedication to this addition was Nov. 30, 1919.

No full-time minister was called to serve the Church of Christ until in 1951, Robert Hasselbring

began preaching every week. He was the first minister to live in the present parsonage.

In 1952, the congregation voted to completely remodel and redecorate the building inside and paint the bricks on the outside. During the time of remodeling, services were held in the Church's Activity Room where the Corner Cafe is now located. This room was sold and the proceeds were applied to the remodeling expenses.

In 1955, ground was broken for the present new unit—72 ft. by 35 ft. with full basement. Several members of the church donated their labor and under the contractor's directions the new unit was completed enough to have the June, 1957 Vacation Bible School conducted in the basement.

On Sunday, October 16, 1960, a Centennial Homecoming was held in the new building. Since that time the original building has been made into 2 floors, allowing for panelled classrooms, restrooms, secretary's office and minister's study.

The first wedding to be held in the First Church of Christ's 76 years was that of Zella Yuergens and Ray McGlaughlin, followed in a few years by the marriage of Emma Alice Scott and Charles Leonard—all 4 members of the church. But many marriages of both members and non-members have been performed in the present beautiful sanctuary.

Nearly 40 elders or ministers have lead the congregation in Worship Service since the beginning of the Potomac First Church of Christ. Bro. O. J. Thomas was employed for the most consecutive years: 8. The present minister, Dale Baldwin, has been serving the church and the community for 3 years. In 1974, a Youth Minister was called to help with the ministry as the membership and attendance has been on the upgrade.



Old Church of Christ

POTOMAC CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



U. B. Church

Early in Sept., 1936, Rev. James H. Livingston and another evangelist conducted services for 1 week in the mobile band stand in Potomac that used to be moved to different places for public gatherings. At that time, it was just north of what is now the town park. Enough interest developed in these special services that a tent was then set up 2 blocks north of the railroad on N. Vermilion St. on the east side of the street where a revival continued until cold weather came in October. Services continued to be held until Oct. 20, in the home of Elmer and Daisy Stucker, after which the emerging congregation rented what was known as the "old cheese factory" in which to hold Sunday School and regular church services. This building is now where Potomac Equipment Company is located.

The Church of the Nazarene continued to worship here until Aug., 1938, when property at 110 N. Grant St. had been purchased and the first white framed building had been built. Rev. Livingston served as pastor of the congregation until succeeded by Rev. Donald J. Gibson in 1944. Rev. Livingston, though still quite active in evangelistic work and pulpit supply preaching, now makes Potomac his retirement home. Dr. Gibson lives in Kansas City, Mo., where he now serves as Executive Secretary of Evangelism for the International Church of the Nazarene.

The white framed structure was the home of the Nazarenes in Potomac until a larger building was erected on the same property in 1955. This newer block church has recently been purchased by Delbert Remole and serves our community as

an apartment building.

The church moved to her last home at 206 E. State St. in 1969, where the congregation is now located. The United Brethren congregation made a lovely sanctuary and education facility, along with the adjacent parsonage, available to the Nazarenes when they merged with the Methodists to become the United Methodists. The U. B. Church built this structure in 1925, after the older U. B. building burned in a Christmas fire. The Nazarenes remodeled this building when they moved in in 1969, and have been quite busy for the last year and a half in an extensive renovating program designed to preserve the beauty and usefulness of their place of worship.

The Church of the Nazarene plans to continue faithfully serving Potomac with the Gospel until Christ comes again. Ministers having given parts of

their lives pastoring here are as follows:

Rev. James H. Livingston	1936-44
Rev. Donald J. Gibson	1944-45
Rev. James W. Ford	1945-46
Rev. Roy C. Bedinger	1946-48
Rev. Harry Hughes	1948-49
Rev. Frank Noels, Jr.	1949-50
Rev. Roeland Smits	1950-51
Rev. Frank Hawthorne	1951-53
Rev. Chester Kemper	1953-56
Rev. Ladell Morgan	1956-57
Rev. Paul Sartain	1957-58
Rev. Rex Eaton	1958-60
Rev. James H. Livingston	1960-64
Rev. Ernest Atwood	1964-66
Rev. Dorothy Reed	1966-70
Rev. Gary Jones	1970-72
Rev. Stanley D. Aubrey	1973-

POTOMAC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



In 1840, a Methodist Class was organized at the home of Joseph Menely, which was located east of the Potomac Cemetery. The class consisted of the families of 8 persons. This Society became a part of the old Danville Circuit.

At a session of the Illinois Conference held at Decatur, Illinois in September, 1865, the Blue Grass Circuit was formed from appointments taken from the old Danville Circuit. The appointments consisted of Wallace Chapel, Blue Grass, Partlow Chapel, Marysville, Schwartz, and School House No. 1. A parsonage was built in Blue Grass City. The first quarterly Conference was held at Wallace Chapel in November, 1865.

The history of the Circuit reaches back to pioneer days. The country was rough. The roads were bad. There was no means of communication except by personal contact. The Church encountered many hardships, both of financial and disciplinary character. The membership was small. The entire Blue Grass Circuit consisted of 274 members in the year 1871.

For 5 years, the Marysville Church held its services in available places—part-time in a school-house which was located where the present church stands. That schoolhouse was later moved to the lot north of the Ingram home on So. Vermilion St.

Under devoted leadership of 7 prominent cit-

izens, namely: Isaac Menely, Carrie Mills, Francis Shain, Joseph Jameson, Wm. Cossairt, Fred Bennett and Charles Pressey, the Church was maintained as a place to worship, to sing hymns, to pray, to preach and to give thanks to the Almighty God for mercy and loving kindness.

In 1869, the Trustees of Marysville Chapel bought ½ acre of land (the present site of the church) and in 1870, a church building was erected. In 1871, permission from the Illinois Conference was given for a committee to purchase ground in Marysville for a parsonage, and to sell the parsonage in Blue Grass City. In 1877, the Blue Grass Circuit was changed by the Illinois Conference to the Marysville Circuit—then changed to the Potomac Circuit in 1881.

In 1902, a deed was made to the Trustees and their successors of the Potomac, Wallace Chapel and Partlow (now Armstrong) Church to hold in trust without right to sell or convey, 80 acres of land by John English Smith and his wife Mary. The income from this land was to be used for running expenses of the 3 churches. The parsonage for the Potomac Church was built in 1901-1902.

In 1909-1910, the building committee, Pastor W. T. Beadles, J. B. Payne and L. C. Messner, let a contract to Jesse Stone to remodel the church building. A choir loft was built on the south. The old building was enlarged and land for a Sunday School room on the north side was purchased.

On Sunday, Feb. 10, 1910, the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Potomac, Illinois was rededicated. In 1939, The Methodist Episcopal, The Methodist Episcopal Churches of the South and The Methodist Protestant Churches united under one name: "The Methodist Church."

In 1954, work was done by the men of the church to make major improvements in the basement and the exterior of the church was redecorated.



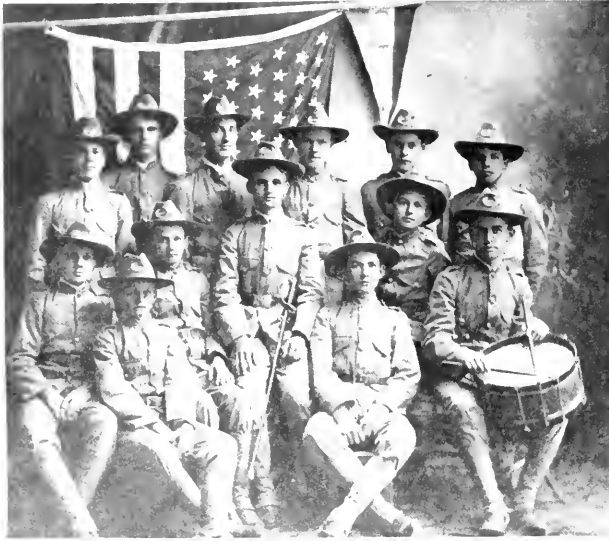
Sunday School Class—Mrs. Mills, teacher.

Because the Conference was unable to supply full-time services to all its areas, the development of a cooperative Parish arrangement between Armstrong, Ellis, Penfield, Pleasant Grove, Potomac and Wallace Chapel, a Yoked Field of Potomac Methodist and Potomac Evangelical United Brethren Churches plus several other alternatives was made. A favorable vote at a quarterly Conference held at the church in May, 1964, carried in favor of the Potomac Methodist and the Evangelical United Brethren Churches being formed in a Yoked Field. One minister was to assume the work of the 2 churches. The EUB parsonage was used as the minister's home. The Methodist parsonage was a meeting place for the Missionary Society, the Board of Trustees and the Youth Fellowship activities. Later the EUB parsonage was sold and the Methodist parsonage became the minister's home.

In Nov., 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Church of Potomac voted to unite and become The United Methodist Church of Potomac with membership in the Central Illinois Conference.



U.B. Church group after the sermon in the summer.



O.A.B. Boys

Methodist Church Group around 1912
 Row 1: Hugh Watters, Clarence Smith,
 Noble Taylor, Roy Davis; Row 2: R.
 Moss, Rex Moon (sword) Koelin, Ray
 Moon (drummer); Row 3: G. Hender-
 Alva Leonard, Bliss Collins, Harold
 Wilbur, R. Moss.

Methodist Church



U.B. Church

Prior to the EUB Church's union with the Methodist Church, its history dates back to 1874. In 1913, the building was remodeled with more rooms being added only to be destroyed by fire Dec. 15, 1925. Plans were made and carried out for a new building, the present Church of the Nazarene.

In the early '70's the present Annex was built to the United Methodist Church, joining the church on the north. It is used as a Fellowship Hall and for Sunday School classrooms. The minister's study and restrooms are a part of the new addition. Adequate kitchen facilities are a part of it also.

WALLACE CHAPEL CHURCH OF POTOMAC

The Wallace Chapel Church was built in 1854, at a cost of \$2100. It was named after Wallace who was going to be the preacher and who did the building of the church with the help of Elsa Starr, J. W. Duncan, Johess Moss and Charles Stone. There have been 2 churches built there. The last one was built in 1900.

The last services to be held in the church were on May 29, 1966. After those services, a meeting was held in the Potomac Methodist Church in regard to closing the church to services. Marjorie Judy read a statement to this effect and Caroline Hambleton recorded the same. At that time, the Trustees of the Church were: T. E. Davis, Gene Talbott, Marjorie Judy, Harold Hambleton, Alice Davis and Wayne Way. David Judy and Grace Davis attended the meeting.

Due to vandalism, the church had to be demolished in 1974.



Wallace Chapel

To the Readers of the POTOMAC RUSTLER:

Success

cannot help but attend such Push and fair business methods as those pursued by the NEW ERA Dry Goods and Clothing Co.

-: Our Full last :-

WINTER SALE

N. B.--To any out-of-town purchaser of \$20.00 or over within a radius of 75 miles from Danville, full amount of railroad fare refunded upon presentation of return ticket.



Schools



School House, December 30, 1902

HISTORY OF POTOMAC SCHOOLS

In 1870, citizens of Marysville held a meeting for the purpose of electing a schoolboard and making arrangements for a school building. It was decided to build a one-room frame building just south of where the United Methodist Church now stands. Though small, this building was evidence of the initiative and enterprise of the citizens of

the village. It furnished ample room for the pupils who started to school there.

When the Methodist Church was built, the school building was moved to South Vermilion St. where it stands today. Though vacant now, it was occupied for many years by the Frank Spain family. At present it is owned by Les Ingram.



7th grade—first week of school, Sept. 1921.

As the town grew it was necessary to have a larger building. It was voted to have a new brick building with 4 rooms. This was in 1876. The contract was let to John Lewis. It was built on the lot where the David Judy Park is now.

When the new building was finished there was a parade from the old to the new with A. W. Knight and Mabel Buckingham at the head.

By 1895, it was thought this building was too small and in poor condition, so the community voted to construct a new building south of the old one. It was finished and occupied in 1896. The high school occupied one room of the building, southeast corner of the second floor. At that time there were 30 students enrolled in high school.

The first class of the new building finished in 1898, and consisted of 2 members, Minnie McComb Wilber and Sherman Littler.

The first teachers were M. L. Flannigan who taught all the high school subjects and acted as principal. Other teachers were Jesse Stone, 7th and 8th; Ella Wescott, 4th, 5th, and 6th; and Myrtle Buckingham, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades.

The first Board of Education members were John Littler and Dr. J. E. P. Butz. The County Superintendent of Schools was L. H. Griffith.

There was an enrollment of 140 pupils.

In 1916, the new part (hot lunch room, 2 classroom, gymnasium, and the auditorium) was added. For the next 20 years this building accommodated both the grade and high school.

As the years passed, this building became inadequate and the Board of Education of the Potomac High School made plans for a new building on land purchased from Earl Jameson at the east edge

of Potomac.

In September 1938, school opened in one of the most modern, conveniently arranged school buildings of its size in the state. The architect was George E. Ramey and Company. Robert S. Wilson was Superintendent of the high school. L. A. Tuggle was the County Superintendent of Schools.

The Board of Education of the high school at that time were Elmer Moreland—President; Fred Duncan, J. C. Linfoot, Lou Williams, D. S. Cosairt, Harry Perry and Everett Wilson.

The grade school occupied the whole building on College St. All the country schools surrounding the village consolidated with this school in 1946. The schools that consolidated were: Williams, Tilotson, Green Valley, Higginsville, Hawbuck, Biddle, Bean Creek, Bluegrass, Wallace Chapel, Murphy and Knights Branch. An election was held to conform with the laws. All equipment from these schools was either brought into the present school or sold. The one-room school houses were sold to the highest bidder.

The Board of Directors at the time of this consolidation were Curtis Jameson, Everett Ellis, and M. M. St. John. The County Superintendent was L. A. Tuggle.

In 1964, the voters of the school district voted for a new grade school to be located just east of the high school which is outside the town boundaries and in May, 1970, the 2 schools were made into a unit district.

In our centennial year the enrollment in the unit is 370 pupils with 29 teachers and 3 administrators. The unit also employs 15 non-certified persons.



3rd and 4th grade—teacher, Grace Elliott—1st row: Orville Jolley, Edmund Howell, ? Hoth, Harold Blackford, ?, Clifford Reeves, Lewis Luckey, Donald ?, Bert Alldridge, ? Grove Raymond Baril. 2nd row: Dale Harper, Elmer Cannon, John Moss, Curry Voss, Robert Tennyson, Dwight Grove, Edith Howell, Gwendolyn Hall, Dorothy Mayfield. 3rd row: Donald Kirkhart, Kate Thompson, Leota Cossairt, June Weiser, Lena Reeves, Ruby Spain, Ruth Spain, Marie Warren, Ruby Smith, Fern ?, Lois Goodwine, Adelina Groves, Bessie Simonton, and Louie Jane Cossairt.



3rd and 4th grade—teacher, Grace Elliott—1st row: Dale Harper, Edmund Howell, Robert Tennyson, Fred Ermentrout, ?, Fredrick Butz, ?, Field Hall, ?, Dwight Grove, Richard Knott. 2nd row: Gladys Kewis, Marie Warren, Elmer Cannon, ?, John Moss, Curri Voss, ? Hoth, Edith Howell, ? Turner, ?, Lucille Bird. 3rd row: Kate Thompson, Leota Cossairt, June Weiser, Lena Reeves, Bessie Simonton, Ruby Spain, Gwendolyn Hall, ?.



Seventh and eighth graders, 1919. Left to right standing: Thelma Bird, Esther Moss, Juantia Lindsey, Lois Norton, Marjorie Burkhart, Christine Royer, Miss Pansy Biedermann, teacher, Waneta Griffin, Henrietta Thompson, Mary Reigle, Eva May, Ercel Smith, Lucille Shain, Pauline Landis. Front row: Robert Ermentrout, Carper Kelley, Paul Harper, Edmund Butz, Clyde Jameson, Kenneth Bird, Leo Thompson, Herbert Cook, Curt Morris, Bruce Miller, Alvin Kelley, Elmer Miller, William Cook, janitor, in the background.



"1915" Miss Barr, teacher. Given Courtney, Velma Magruder, Frieda Hoth, Josephine Philips, Mae Sollars, Thelma Bird, Mary Riegle, Bessie Searl, Eriel Smith, Auriel, Henrietta and Reatha Thompson, Cloyde Otis, Edmund Butz, Herbert Cook, Paul Harper, Harold Goodwine, Virgil Bergesse., Glenn Shain, Frank Sollars, Ray McGlaughlin, Curtis Jameson. Victor Lewis, Kenneth Brid, Clyde Jameson, Clarence Blackford.



Third and fourth grades, row 1: George Hickman, Glen Jameson, Harold Davis, Nanny Sexton. Row 2: Mary Rice, Florence Taylor, Elizabeth Watters, Velma Shain, Mae Bleavens, Eva Hoth, May Nixon, Maude Duncan, Mary Hall, Minnie Gray, Emma Kelton, Row 3: Leo Geotchus, John Hines, Vileto Barnett, Mary Andrews, Ida Johnson, Roy Morris, Forest Sperry, Emma Tillotson, Ruth Davis, Rufus Hoover, Marie Weller, Rosa Bohen, Curtis Messner. Row 4: Hazel Barnet, Earl Pierce, Walter Smith, Nettie Taylor, Albert Hickman. Row 5: Paul Shain, Teacher- Bess Dague.

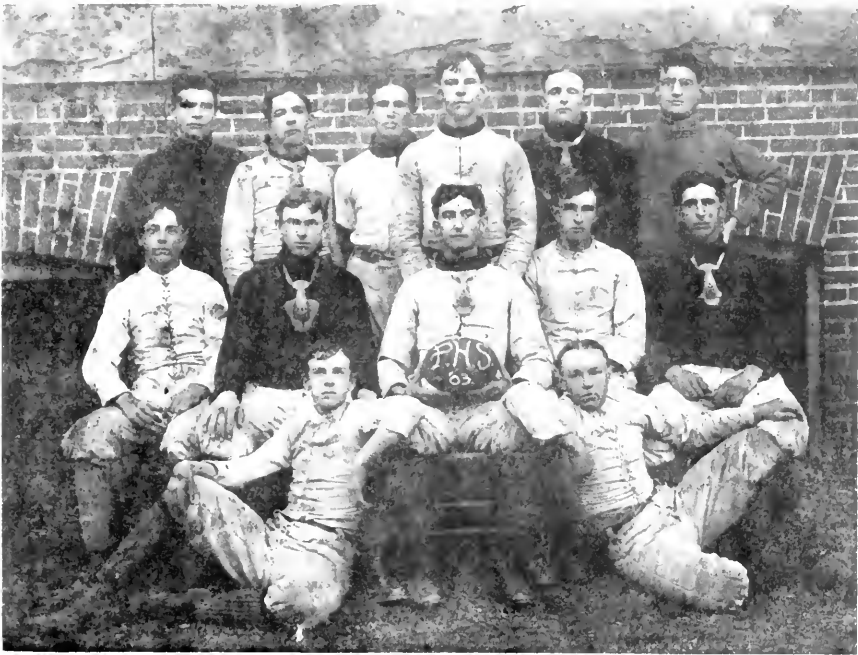


Seventh and eighth grades, 1922-1923, row 1: Mary Wyman, Adeline Grove, Geneva Cosby, Raymond Baril, Curry Voss, Dwight Grove, Gwendolyn Hall, Carol Bever, Harold Blackford, Forest Alexander, Lois Goodwine. Row 2: Louis Jane Cossairt, Kate Thompson, Marie Warren, Edith Howell, Lewis Luckey, Leota Cossairt, Zelda Duncan, Orville Jolley, Ed Butz, Don Burkhardt. Row 3: Ruby Smith, Gertrude Kelley, Ruth Spain, Lena Reeves, Ruby Spain, Bessie Simonton, June Weiser, Robert Tennyson, Bert Aldridge, Dale Harper, Virginia Borrer.

Standing: Marjorie Gray, Lolamontus Bressler, Minnie Brooks, Charlotte Young, MabreWise, Lena Blackford, Margaret Sperry. Front row, Paul Talbott, Ray West, Harrison VanNatta, Glenn Sollars and Gordon Kelly.



Opal Schuelle, Minnie Brooks, Mary Gray, Marjorie Jolley, Lolamontus Bressler, Margaret Sperry, Ray West, Harrison VanNatta and Thomas Morel.

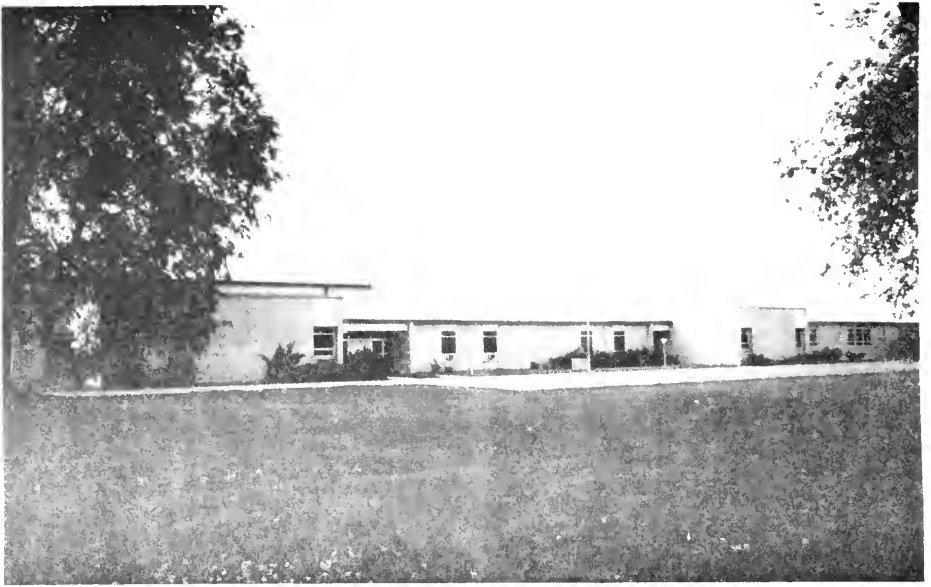


Football team of Potomac High School

Row 1: ? Hickman, Carl Hickman, Homer Butz, Frank Payne. Row 2: Tom Young, Fred Duncan, Otto Mayfield, Charles Jester, Albert Rice, Ben Young.



Freshman class of "32", 1st row: Alton Smith, Bob Mockbee, Jack Goodwine, Paul Strauser, Ross Coil, Charles Crawford, Jr. Farnsworth, Ray Alexander. 2nd row: Claude Dawson, Maxine Anderson, Marquet McQueen, Ellis West, Ardith Reeve, Wonda Oehmke, Juanita Mockbee, Rosalee Bird, Helen Smith, Frank Taylor. 3rd row: Irene Schnelle, Dorothy Clem, Helen Crawford, Sara Mae Crawford, Eva Mae Morgan, Katherine Lane, Margaret Evans, Joe Bressler. 4th row: From Burge, Lowell Crawford, Roy Miller, Marvin Emerson, Harry Sollars, Dale Jameson, Ollie Clementz, Ed Plotner, Chester Powell, Wendell Mockbee.



Potomac Grade School



Potomac High School

Sherry Bogges



COUNTY SPELLING CROWN WON BY POTOMAC GIRL

Sherry Bogges, an eighth grader, won the 1957 Vermilion County Spelling Bee. She defeated eight other sectional champions in a 62-minute battle which awarded her the trophy and the traveling trophy with her name engraved and put in the Potomac School for the year. Mr. George Clementz was the principal.

Certificate of Promotion

This Certifies, That *Ruth Davis*
has attained the required standard for promotion and is
hereby transferred to the *Sixth* grade
class, room *3*
Given this *14th* day of *June* 1910
Ethel Dwyer TEACHER
Maud C. Sherry PRINCIPAL OR J.

Certificate of Promotion



1915-1916

Can you find yourself?

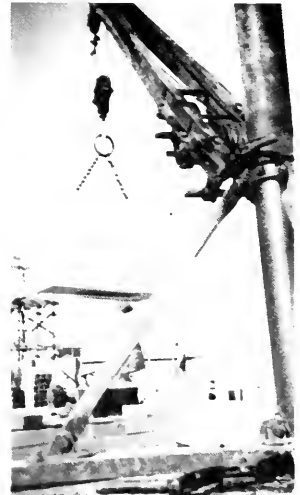


Class of 1976

Glenda Asbury
Lynn Bussard
Brad Davis
Kim Duncan
Wayne Forrest
Vickie Grimes
Dean Hambleton
Cindy Hoskins
Jim Hoskins
Kim Hoskins
Doug Howie
Perry Jaynes
Kevin Jolley
Steve Judy
Cindy Knerr
Bob Long
Dean McGuffee
Theresa Meyers
Diana Osborn
Joni Reardon
Dawn Remole
Donna Remole
Dan Wernick
Cynthia Wright

PERFECT Attendance Certificate

This is to Certify
That Frances Hall
has attended school during the month ending
Dec 2 1957 without loss of time from
absence or tardiness and is therefore awarded this
Certificate
Laura J. L. S. S. S.
SCHOOL Isidore



Laying of Corner stone of the high school.

The Judy School.

Village of Potomac



Looking west on State Street—the business section of Potomac.

VILLAGE OF POTOMAC

The earliest minutes of a village meeting that I could find was January 1, 1912.

At the Feb. 5, 1912 meeting J. E. Farnsworth was appointed marshal. Also, at this meeting the purchasing committee was instructed to buy a bed for the marshal to sleep on at the city building. The Illinois Central Agent, Hildebrant, was not granted permission to ride his bicycle on the sidewalks from the depot to the post office in bad weather. At this time the streets in Potomac were much lower than they are now and in bad weather they would be very muddy. The board walks were up several feet from the street, high enough the buckboards could be backed right up to them.

The June 3, 1912 meeting shows that Wilson Lighting was supplying electricity to the Village of Potomac. Also there were 2 banks at that time—Potomac National Bank and Goodwine Bank.

The total tax levy for the year of 1912-13 was \$3410.00—a far cry from the many thousands it is today.

October 7, 1912, it was ordered to have the artesian well at the corner of State and Vermilion Streets repaired.

November 7, 1912, C. C. Crouch was granted a license to operate a pool table.

In 1913, the oil for the streets was purchased by the citizens and the village paid for putting it on the streets.

The first speed limit signs were put up in 1913—1 east, 1 west, 1 north and 1 south.

In 1913, a bell was rung at 7:30 P.M. warning the children under the age of 16 that they had to be home by 8:00 P.M.

During the year of 1913, a man was appointed to serve as policeman for 1 month without pay. A new man was appointed each month.

Mrs. Field owned the Potomac Hotel in 1914.

June 25, 1914, owners of traction engines were prohibited from running their engines on the village streets and alleys without first having protection over smoke stacks to keep sparks from coming out.

August 3, 1914, J. E. Layton was granted a



Old City Hall located on State Street.

license to operate a poolroom, but his license was revoked Dec. 18, 1914, because he allowed minors to play pool.

October 5, 1914, Mr. Goodwine agreed to put down a well in front of Goodwine Bank.

May 1, 1916, the board voted to make a new town well near the old one on South Vermilion St.

Some sewers were placed in 1914, 1915, and 1916. These were very short span. WPA put the existing ones in.

October, 1919, the village board entered into a contract with the Highway Commissioner to construct hard roads through the village of Potomac.

October, 1922, E. L. Curley was hired as policeman for the village with the understanding that he was also to keep the pavement clean and all manholes and sewers open at a salary of \$80 per month.

In 1922, every property owner was required to keep the board walks in front of his property in good condition and gravel on the street in front at his own cost.

March, 1923, the Potomac Telephone Co. was granted a franchise. The phone company was the partnership of Frank Samuels of Boswell, Indiana, and Chas. H. Jester of Potomac. The franchise was for 30 years.

It seems the hitch rack in back of the Duncan Bros. Store was an annual repair job for the street and alley committee.

July 4, 1923, State Street was roped off for an evening dance.

October 6, 1924, W. H. Goodwine was granted permission to install a gas pump at the curb in front of his business.

1924, Wilson Electric Co. supplied electricity to the village. The name later changed to Alvin Electric Co.

April 3, 1926, C.I.P.S. was granted a franchise to supply electricity to the village.

1927 and 1928, Joe Cannon, Chas. Kissack, Clev Allen and Earl Jameson were ordered to pay for the lamp globes that they had broken.

In 1927, a \$50 reward was posted for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons stealing gas out of the firetruck.

1929, a cement walk was laid from the school to S. Vermilion Street along the edge of the P. Smith property.

June, 1929, Fred Taylor was granted permission to close N. Vermilion St. on Wednesday evenings to show movies.

In 1932, J. A. Hickman was paid 15¢ per hour to ditch and clean streets.

September 5, 1932, Cloyd Talbott was given permission to remove curbing of sidewalk for a "drive-in gas station."

October 1, 1933, the village became a member of the Illinois Municipal League.

April 7, 1936, the board passed an ordinance to issue and sell Bonds in the amount of \$3500 for the purchase of land for a public park. A special election for the citizens' approval was held on May 29, 1936.

December, 1941, the board accepted the bid of Tagwerker & Co. of Chicago to buy \$40,000 village water bonds at 4½% interest. The bonds were for a proposed water works system. The economy went down hill, so the water plant was forgotten about for several years.

The first library board was: Lida Stephens, Mable Sollars, Estella Moreland, Myrtle Anderson, Ann F. Cope and Albert Rice. (1943)

Through the '10's, '30's, '40's and '50's the dog problem was taken care of by the board. They would receive \$1.00 for killing and 75¢ for burying them.

July, 1947, Reeves and Taylor asked permission of the board to have a skating rink on the park grounds in the southwest corner. The board granted permission for 1 year and charged \$15 per month rent. (It was torn down in 1953.)

March 25, 1950, the question of issuing \$40,000 in waterworks bonds was again voted on by the citizens of Potomac. It passed 236 to 69 votes. Land for the water works was purchased from Mrs. Cross for \$1000. The contract to build the water plant and system was awarded to 3 different parties: W. L. Hall, Warner and Son Construction and Chicago Bridge & Iron Co. The cost was \$93,777.54. C. H. Taylor and Sons drilled the wells for the water plant.

October 1, 1950, Harry Grimes was granted a permit to operate a poolhall above the A & H Store.

December 4, 1941, Clarence Taylor was appointed the first waterworks superintendent.

The first water rates were: 500 to 1000 gal-

lons—\$1.25; 1000 and over—\$2.50; 500 gallons and under—no charge.

Dewey Clyden was water superintendent until May, 1952, when Mark Judy was appointed water superintendent and village marshal.

Burt Hall was appointed water superintendent May 16, 1956.

April 24, 1961, Bill Downing was hired as water superintendent.

1954, Mildred McGowen was appointed village clerk. She was the first woman to hold this position.

January, 1966, the first action was taken to widen Route 136 through Potomac and re-surface same.

August, 1966, was the first mention of a lake in Middlefork Twp. and also the mention of a sewage system for Potomac.

1967—ice storm. There was no electricity for hours.

Prillman's burned on February 5, 1968.

February 3, 1969, a petition containing 107

names was filed with the village clerk petitioning to allow Potomac residents to vote on the issuance of a package liquor license in Potomac. The election was held April 15, 1969, and it was voted down 158 to 121.

The March 3, 1969 board meeting was opened at 6:30 because most of the board members wanted to go to the Potomac basketball game. Potomac was playing in the regional and they won.

Nov. 7, 1972, \$90,000 water bond issue election passed 265 to 56. It was for the purpose of remodeling the water plant and equipment.

A petition was filed February 1, 1974, at 4:55 P.M. in the office of the village clerk which contained 128 names, 1 of which was not a resident of the village. The petition was for a liquor election to be held April, 1974. The liquor issue was voted down again.

January, 1976, the pre-application for federal funding of a sewage system for the village of Potomac was filed. This is the first step to be taken towards a sewage system for the village of Potomac.

Post Office



Azzie Sollars, Albert Sperry—Horse and Buggy days delivering the mail.



Post Office in early days: Azzie Sollars, Albert Sperry, Alice Tyler.

Story as told by Roy McMahan:

I have been a citizen of Potomac 30 years and postmaster 21 years. So much is unknown to me and others.

I have been postmaster 21 years, and possibly have the longest term of anyone. Before me, Curtis Jameson was acting postmaster for 13 months. Palmer Smith, who was later Mayor of Potomac, was postmaster from 1935 to 1953. David "Sep" Cossairt was postmaster before Mr. Smith. Mr. Cossairt was in the poultry buying business and was T. W. P. assessor after he was postmaster. Before that time Ern Duncan and T. W. Buckingham served. How many more I do not know.

The Post Office had been in the present location 20 years. Prior to that it was in the east half of what is now Burroughs Store for about 45 years. Before that it was located where the pool hall now is.

There once were Post Offices in different communities near Potomac. Some of them were Jamesburg, Ellis, Bluegrass and many more. The office at Ellis was closed in 1935. Back in those days most of the roads were mud and patrons were served by rural carriers in horse drawn vehicles.

Today the rural customers of the U. S. Postal Service are served by Mr. Robert Keal on Rural Route 1, and Mr. Robert DeNeal on Rural Route 2. Mr. Keal has 107 miles of route and delivers a part of Potomac rural mail, all of Armstrong's and Collison's. Mr. DeNeal has 103 miles of route and delivers part of Potomac rural mail and a part of Penfield's. The carrier from Gifford delivers the rest of Penfield's. This is a contrast to the old days when Potomac had 5 routes; Armstrong, 2; and 1 or 2 at Penfield. Maybe routes out of Henning, Collison and other places. Before Mr. DeNeal and Mr. Keal's service, Frank McCormick served for 40 years on Route 1. Curtis T. Sollars served for about 20 years on Rural Route 2. Before Mr. Sollars, Walter Ennis was the carrier on Rural Route 2. Before Mr. Ennis, Azzie used Model T Fords, motorcycles, horses and even walked at times to get his mail delivered. Mail was even delivered on Christmas Day. The carrier often ate Christmas dinner with a patron. Some of the names of other carriers were: Albert Sperry, Earl Jameson and John Searls.



Palmer Smith
Mildred Creighton
Curtis Sollars
Cunningham
Frank McCormick

Old Post Office

Sept Cossairt
Albert Sperry
Frank McCormick
Azzie Sollars
Mae Huffman



Azzie Sollars' car, carrying mail
on mud road.



Azzie Sollars and son Curtis Sollars going on mail
route in the early days.

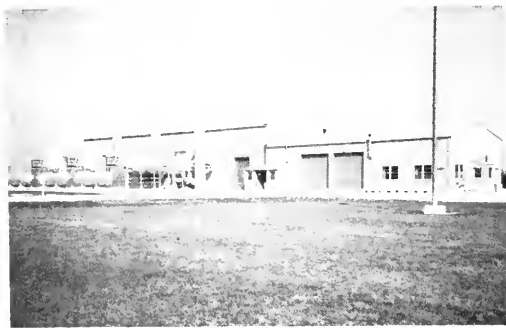
THE DAVID L. JUDY MEMORIAL PARK

The David L. Judy Memorial Park was dedicated Sunday, September 21, 1971. Mr. & Mrs. David Judy unveiled the sign and plaque in honor of their son who was killed September 30, 1968, in Vietnam.

There was a park loan mortgage-burning ceremony dedication with a community carry-in dinner and an evening worship service. It was presented to the Judy's by President Richard Hoskins of the Community Council.

There were approximately 600 people who witnessed the dedication. Master of Ceremonies was Richard Lanham, who introduced the Potomac High School band and introduced the council members. The raising of the colors was by the marine Corps Color Guard, and Ed Weishar lead the community in the Star Spangled Banner and pledge to the flag. Speaker was Richard Nichols of Danville, the American Legion State Commander, whose theme was "Dedication to Country."

The Community Council purchased the former grade school property from Evert Berglund to make a park for the children in town. It has new playground equipment, a volleyball area, and baseball diamond. This is a community project.



Northwestern
Gas Co.



TELEPHONE

The first telephone office was located upstairs by the opera house and run by Charles Jester. Nova Vanatta, Emma Kinney and Eva Mae Kelly were the "hello girls"; Ella and Alta Montgomery took over the switchboard later on. The first lineman and repairman was Hicks Vanatta. The cost was \$1.00 per month and later was raised to \$1.50. Candace Jester went to the homes each month and collected for them. Mr. Jester had a brick building made located south of the Grab-It-Here store and moved the telephone equipment into it. It was operated by the Illinois Telephone Company of Rantoul. Ola Franklin, Inez Beck, Mildred Selsor and Kathryn Krout were operators. Mr. Jester sold out and a new building was made in 1950 on State Street and the dial system came in.

MIDWESTERN GAS

Construction started in the spring of 1968 to build a compressor station for Midwestern Gas Transmission Company at Potomac, Illinois. The station officially went into full operation December 3, 1968. Our station, located south of Potomac, operates 24 hours each day of the year and employs 12 people. This compressor station operates three TLA-6 Clark Engines and one Allison Turbine.

Midwestern Gas Transmission Company is 1 of 4 natural gas subsidiaries of Tenneco, Inc. with home offices in Houston, Texas. The other 3 natural gas subsidiaries are Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, East Tennessee Natural Gas Company and Channel Industries Gas Company.

The first Natural Gas in Potomac was officially turned on by Allied Gas Company, a subsidiary of Northern Illinois Gas Company, on Nov. 20. In photo, Village President, Dorsey McBroom lights Gas light installed by Allied Gas in front of the Water Department Building on No. Vermillion Street. On hand for informal turn-on ceremonies were (left to right) William Downing, George Borrow, Paul Burroughs, Marvin Goodwine, Don Doran, Richard Jameson, Katherine Krout, John Suslavich—Vice-President of Allied, Lilah Vocs, Edgas Alms—District Manager for Allied, McBroom and Charles Terrell.

HISTORY OF POTOMAC STREETS

In 1884, the Eastern and Havana Railroad was built through the Village of Potomac, and at that time Potomac was laid out except for a few of the streets.

The highway, now called State Street, was about 3 or 4 feet lower than it is now.

The streets were muddy and hazel brush covered both sides. The sidewalks were wooden, built to keep from walking in the mud and water. They were different in height because different people built them. When people came to town in their wagons and buggies they could climb off the sidewalks onto the vehicles. Hitch racks for tying their horses were placed in front of different stores.

In the Spring the water would rise from the creeks and the people could usually use row boats on State Street.

In 1912, the first cement walks were built. The

property owners built concrete walks on each side of their property, about 2 feet wide.

The first bridge east of Potomac was built in the year of 1903 by Bresse. Before building this bridge, they got across any way they could.

The first street built running north and south was Grant Street, which is the street east from Burroughs' Store. All streets were dirt and gravel.

In 1936, a gas tax started. They then started putting oil on streets. The people complained because oil ran into their yards. Then rock was put on over the oil like it is at the present time.

State Street was first paved in 1920— one mile east and west. The State paid for 20 feet of the width and taxpayers paid for the rest. Men worked for \$5.00 per day. Vermilion Street was next to be paved. Streets measured were at State and Vermilion by a stone block in the center of the Square. Later that stone block supported the Flag Pole. Total number of miles of streets in Potomac was $9\frac{1}{2}$, total feet— 49,985.



Corner of Vermilion and State Street—1900 mud streets. In August 1913, the Arc street lights were changed to incandisants.

HISTORY OF POTOMAC'S WATER WORKS

Potomac has been blessed with Artesian water ever since the town was founded. As the Village grew and developed, people wanted their homes modern with running water in them. Few people were able financially to install pressure water systems in order to have this. Then too, every community has the hope some enterprise will locate in it to give employment to citizens at home. When an enterprise looks for a location, one of the things they consider is availability of a water supply.

Potomac citizens have recognized the need of a water system for many years, and there are in our files plans drawn for a water system here in 1946. The Village Board of which Mr. Albert Rice was then President, in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Community Facilities of the Federal Works Agency, had plans drawn and surveys made for a water works system. The Engineering Service Corporation of Decatur, Illinois, drew these plans and specifications, and were paid \$3,800.00 for their services. The Federal Works Agency made a grant to the Village of \$1,771.00 which was a loan to be repaid when the building of the plant was financed and started. The balance of the \$3,800.00 was paid by the Village.

About the time these plans were ready, the general world situation became such that it was impossible to get the money or material to go ahead, and the matter was at a standstill.

In 1949, the Village Board felt there might be some hope of getting the system built, and the office of the Community Facilities Service was writing us that the outlook was favorable and it was their expressed attitude that the Water System should be built and the \$1,771.00 they advanced be repaid to them.

After many citizens had encouraged them to do so, the Board decided to take the matter up with the Engineers— the Engineering Service Corporation of Decatur. On December 29, 1949, Mr. Ted Harris, President of that firm, wrote B. F. Behimer, then President of the Board of Trustees, stating as follows: "In recent months there has been a definite stabilization of construction cost and it now appears that reasonable sale of Bonds may be possible. If the Board wishes to construct the improvement, we believe that all conditions of the coming season will be as favorable as any time in the predictable future."

With this information, we set about finding a market for the Bonds the Village would have to issue and sell in order to have the funds to pay for the Plant. Most Bond Investors wanted a larger Direct Obligation Bond issue on the Village than was felt to be advisable, and arrangements were finally made with a Bond Investment Company who would take

\$40,000.00 in Bonds as the Direct Obligation of the Village and Bonds for the balance of the cost of the System to be paid from revenue from the System, and known as Revenue Bonds. The security to the Revenue Bond owners being the Water System itself and not payable from any tax on the Village.

After having the assurance that the material could be had and the money could be obtained to pay for the plant, the next step was for the people to decide if they wanted the Plant built.

An election was called to decide if the Bonds should be issued and the Plant built. The election was called by the Village Board to be held April 1, 1950. The election was held and the vote was 271 for and 74 against issuing the bonds and building the Plant. Notices to bidders that sealed bids would be received at the Village Hall at 7:30 P.M., July 3, 1950, for construction of the Water Works System.

In the meantime, the engineers had redrawn plans and specifications to meet changed conditions and the approval of the State Board of Health. The contractors who desired to bid on the system obtained copies of the drawings and specifications to meet changed conditions and the approval of the State Board of Health. The contractors who desired to bid on the system obtained copies of the drawings and specifications from them in order to make their bids.

The construction was in 3 units: the tower (110 feet high), the 60,000 gallon tank, a stand pipe to the tower which holds 9,000 gallons of water, and Cathodic protection equipment.

The contract for this was awarded to the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company and this was completed in January, 1951.

The contract for the buildings and salt storage tanks and the well which originally was planned to be an 8-inch well was awarded the Hall Construction Company of Atwood and Decatur, Illinois. They failed to make a well of their try at the 8-inch well, after which their contract for the well was cancelled and, owing to the fact that expenses of repairing or replacing a well of this size would be expensive and difficult, it was decided to drill 3 smaller wells with jet pumps and a capacity of 100 gallons of water per minute by using all 3 wells at one time. It was also believed it would be safer to have 3 wells instead of 1 so if at any time 1 well was out of order the other 2 would provide water.

Water is pumped from these wells through charcoal as a filter into the Aerator Tank, then through the softener, and then by high lift pumps into the elevated tank on the tower. From there it goes into the mains and to your own water faucets.

At the present time, March 1, 1953, more than 6,500,000 gallons of water have been used.

The contract for the distribution system was awarded Albert N. Warren and Son Construction Company of Hoopston, Illinois. There are over 5 miles of water mains in the Village, ranging in size from 8-inch mains to 6-inch mains to 4-inch mains, and there are a few 100 feet of 2-inch mains. There are 19 fire hydrants. The pipes are so laid that there is complete circulation through the mains and this helps to keep the water pure and fresh.

Water is treated by Cochran and Company equipment approved by the State.

It was first necessary in starting the work to purchase the sight. This was purchased from Mrs. Lois Crawford and her mother, Mrs. Cross. After this, permits were obtained to run the mains under the railroad and State Highway Route 136 in order to reach all parts of the Village.



Volunteer Fire Department

Years ago in the days of the Stage Coach, a small village called Marysville was located about 20 miles northwest of Danville, Illinois. It was one of the most important trading centers for miles around.

Fire was one of the great enemies of the early settlers. Plain John Smith formed the first Fire Department in 1846 and Ticky (John) Smith was the first Fire Chief. The equipment for the Fire Department was 1 wagon, 2 ladders, 36 buckets, burlap bags, and rope. The burlap bags were used to beat out the fire; the rope could be hooked to buckets to dip water from the creek.

Later, about 1848, the Fire Department was updated with another wagon and it was put in service with a wooden tank mounted on it. This could be at the fire and the town's people would carry water in buckets to fill the tank, while part of the men would put water on the fire with buckets. Some of the men on the Department were: Ticky Smith, English Smith, plain John Smith, Mennely, Morehead, and Marshall. However, all the town's people were more or less on the Fire Department. The important thing was to have someone to carry water so all of the people of the town were very important to the Department.

As the village grew, the Fire Department had to be updated, and about 1892, a hand-operated pump was placed in service. Water was pumped from the water tanks where the livestock was watered. There



Firemen, 1961—Standing: Don Doran, Ray Wesley, Kenneth Willard, Gene Wernigk, James Morgan—Asst. Chief. Kneeling: Ronald Willard, Ollis Clenientz—Secretary, Roy E. Talbott—Chief.

were 3 such tanks that were kept full by wells. Each well was operated by a wind mill. (These windmills and pump might be confusing to some people who might read this because the artesian well did not come along until about 1905.) This fire pump was operated by 6 men— 3 on each side. However, 12 men were required as they worked in shifts one half-hour at a time.

The Department in 1912 was updated again and a pumper with a 4 cylinder gas engine was put in service. The Village had grown and had experienced 2 bad fires which were the Grant Layton building on East State Street (it burned in February, 1912) and the Oscar Bivens Livery Stable on East State Street. This pumper was housed in back of the present Village Hall and was pulled by a team of horses. The hose was carried on a separate wagon which was pulled by horses. The town had grown so much the residential section was without fire protection so a plan was worked out to have cisterns located in various parts of the Village. Thirteen cisterns were then put down. Two each placed in the downtown fire district, which were very large as they held 5,000 gallons of water each. The remainder of 22 cisterns held 1,500 gallons of water each. These are located in various parts of the Village.



Old Ford fire engine driven by Roy Talbott and Joe Cannon

The first fire siren was in service in 1915, and it was mounted on top of the Village Hall. The fire call was called to the telephone operator and the telephone operator would sound the alarm which was: one LONG BLAST for the business section, one LONG and one SHORT BLAST for the northwest part of town, one LONG and two SHORT BLASTS for the northeast part of town, one LONG and three SHORT for the southeast part of town, and one LONG and four SHORT for southwest part of town.

As the dray business became a thing of the past, the Village president and town board saw the need of updating the Fire Department. A new Model T. Ford truck was bought and the tongue was removed. A hitch was installed so the pumper and truck could be coupled together. The hose was removed from the hose wagon and hauled on the truck. This was in the year of 1923. The town mayor was the late Albert Rice and members of the Village board were: Elmer Moreland, Fred Duncan, Charles Jester, Elmer Jameson, J. B. Payne, John Payne and the Village Clerk, Louis Pinno. The Police Chief was Earl Jenkins and the Justice of the Peace was William Gray.

However, the depression came along in the year of 1929, and the Fire Department did not get updated from 1923 to 1946.

The fire at the Hardy Sams Hatchery in the center of the block on East State Street north side, made the Village Board take a good look at the Fire Department. It was then decided to get a used pumper as the Village could not afford a new one; therefore, a 1929 Reo was put in service. If it had not been for the Danville Fire Department, the north side of State Street would have been burned down. However, the old pumper kept the Danville pumper supplied with water. I had a hard time keeping the old pump running (Roy E. Talbott); however, "Lady Luck" was with us. The decision was made by the Village Board to buy the used pumper when the late Albert Rice was Village President. The Department remained the same until the year of 1955.

The Fire Department was let run down due to the Fire Chiefs' being appointed every year. However, under the direction of the late Ronald Newnum, the Fire Department became better organized as the State and Federal Regulations began to get stricter. Chief Ronald Newnum and Ass't Chief Roy E. Talbott called in the Illinois Inspection and Rating Bureau to find out what should be done and their recommendations to bring the Fire Department up to State standards. It was as follows: to get a new pumper, and to try to get a new building. A new





Jack Prillamn's Fire, Feb. 17, 1968—night fire.

1955 Chevrolet 500 g. p. m. pumper was put in service. However, Chief Ronald Newnum passed away in 1955. Roy E. Talbott became Fire Chief and his work was cut out for him.

However, the new Fire Chief (Roy E. Talbott) could see the need for more improvement and to get the fire insurance rates down. In 1958, Fire Chief Roy E. Talbott went to the Village Board and asked for permission to build a new building and permission was granted by Palmer Smith after some discussion. The building was completed December 17, 1960. These were 2 major steps completed to becoming State approved.

There was no cost to the Village of Potomac for the new Fire Department building. The new building was built by Fire Department personnel and volunteer local contractors. Funds for the building were donated by about 80% of the people outside the Village limits and about 20% from the Village business people and residents. The Fire Department moved to the new building which is located north of the water plant on December 17, 1960. The Village Board passed an ordinance that the Fire Department could help the people in the rural areas. At this time, a 600 gallon tank truck was placed in the Fire Service which was loaned to the Village by

Chief Talbott. The tank truck was part of a promise made to the people outside the Village limits for helping donate to the Fire Department building.

The people residing outside of the Village limits were required to have a rider on their insurance policy to pay the Fire Department for fire calls. These funds would be paid to the Village treasury to pay for the upkeep of the fire equipment and to purchase new equipment. (I must say, the Department did right well, money-wise.)

In May, 1961, the fire siren was moved from behind the Village Hall to the Water Plant Tower. The moving of the fire siren was another of the Inspection and Rating Bureau's recommendation, and was the third major step to be completed for State approval.

The Water Supply Plant had to be improved. This was completed in the year 1962, and was the fourth step for State approval.

The fifth step was the purchase of 500 ft. of 2½-inch hose and a drying rack.

All recommendations by the Illinois Inspection and Rating Bureau had been complied with. The Chief and the Department were ready for the inspection, and on February 8, 1962, the inspection was performed.

much better than the Number 10 Class that the Fire Department had previously held. This was a happy day for the Chief and the Village Board. The Village people were notified of the good news that the fire insurance rates were reduced by 27%.

However, the good news was not to last long as 10 years had slipped by and we were notified by the Inspection Department that we were due for another inspection.

The times had changed and the Fire Service had become a whole new ballgame. There were new regulations to learn, schools to attend such as: First Aid, Fire and Rescue, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), County Disaster, and Emergency Medical Training (EMT). These are required by the State of Illinois and are required for the Fire Chief.

The Chief went to the Village Board and the Village President, the late Dorsey McBroom, to request permission to purchase a new pumper. After many discussions and heated arguments 6 months later, the Chief was given permission to purchase a new pumper. The truck chassis was ordered at the Biggs Motor Company in 1964, and it was received in 1965. The Chief delivered the truck chassis to the Howe Fire Apparatus Company at Anderson, Indiana to place the new pumper on it. On July 16, 1965, the new pumper was placed in service.

The inspection went fine for the Fire Department; however, the water plant failed the test. A new 6-inch well was put down and the Fire Department retained their Number 8 Class rating. The new well was a great help and a life-saver for the Fire Department and the community.

In the year of 1974, the Chief went to the Village President and Board to update the Fire Department again. This time the request was to purchase a 1500 gallon tank truck to service the rural area. At first, the Village Board was not in favor of furnishing the rural area anymore fire service; however, after some thinking about the situation, it was decided that the Village should help the rural area. All out-of-town fire runs are paid for by the insurance companies. The Village President, Carroll Darrow, and Board member, Ronald Willard, were in favor of buying the tank truck. It was finally decided to purchase it. The Chief contacted Biggs Motor Company, and a new truck chassis was ordered (all fire equipment has to conform with State and National Fire codes). The new truck chassis was received in July, 1975. The tank for the truck chassis was ordered on July 10, 1975, from Livesay Bros., Inc., Hindsboro, Illinois. Some labor trouble was encountered and the tank was not received until December, 1975. Due to bad weather, the new tank truck has not been placed in service; however, it is

will be completed. This will bring the Fire Department up-to-date for the year of 1976.

This brings to a close the history of the Potomac Volunteer Fire Department from 1846 to 1976.

I want to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all the wonderful people of the community who helped to make the Fire Department a great success. A special thanks is given to the following: Biggs Motor Co.; Howe representative, Mr. Martin E. Rhodes, from Howe Fire Apparatus Co.; Livesay Bros.; and all the members of the Fire Department, past and present. Also, to all of the 1976 Fire Department personnel, a special thanks to the following: Donald Davis, Ass't Chief; Harley Clemmons, Capt.; Gene Wernick, Gerald Chestnut, James Morgan, John Clingan, Kenneth Keen, Hollis Abbott, Carl Hoshauer, Lowell Creighton, Lee Krout, Harris Carley, William Downing, Willie Carter, John Bruns, Richard Smith, and Walter Carpenter.

To them and to all the Fire Fighters of the community, I dedicate this history of the Potomac Volunteer Fire Department. May this story remain in the memory of all the firemen from the romantic days of horses to the colorful days of motor propelled apparatus.

The Village of Potomac has not been without its major fires. In the year of 1912, 2 major fires—Grant Layton's Store and Oscar Bivens Livery Stable; in the year of 1924, the U. B. Church; McBroom Lumber Co. fires in the years of 1954, 1964 and 1969; and Jack Prillaman Hardward Store in the year of 1968.

The present Chief, Roy E. Talbott, was appointed to the Fire Department in the year of 1926 by the late Albert Rice who was the Village President. Long time members of the Potomac Volunteer Fire Department are: Chief Roy E. Talbott, from 1926 thru 1976; Alois Clementz, 1942 thru 1976; Kenneth Keen, 1928 thru 1976; Kenneth Willard, 1940 thru 1976; Lowell Creighton, 1937 thru 1976; and Walter Carpenter, 1946 thru 1976. All of the above listed members have received 25 year Service Awards from the State of Illinois.

During my time with the Fire Department, I have served with 8 different Fire Chiefs. They are: Chief Richard (Dick) Knott, Chief Butler Magruder, Chief Frank McCormick, Chief John Morrison, Chief Elmer Joe Cannon, Chief General (Arkie) Meister, Chief Everett Ellis, and Chief Ronald Newnum.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all of these wonderful people of the Village and Community for the privilege of serving them for the past 50 years.

Fire Chief, Roy E. Talbott

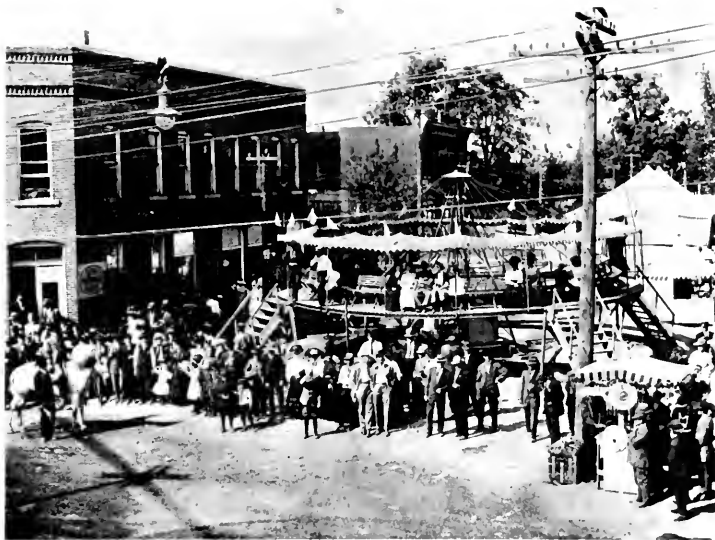
Special Events



Memorial Day walking to cemetery.



Parade going to Park for the 4th of July.



Street fair on Vermilion
in Potomac.





COLONEL MARGARET HARPER DAY

The homecoming celebration of Col. Margaret Harper was held September 15, 1963. It was sponsored by the Potomac Lions Club and Civic Leaders.

Col. Harper was honored that day because she retired September 1st from the Army Nurses Corps after almost 23 years of distinguished service. As Chief of Army Nurses, Col. Harper had held one of the most honored commands in the military services. Her retirement concluded a 4-year tour in this post.

Under her leadership the nurse corps personnel have made major contributions during the past 6 months of the progressive success of Operation Nightingale, the campaign to meet the pressing need for more Army nurses. She had a key part in the program with speaking engagements, participation in decisive conferences and in campaign mission which gained effective results.

Margaret was born and reared in Potomac and her mother still lived here at that time. She was graduated from Evanston General Hospital School of Nursing in 1934. She obtained her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in nursing from Columbia University Teachers College and qualified for an officer's commission in the Army Nurse Corps in April, 1941.

Eighteen years later on September 1, 1959, she assumed command as the 11th Chief of the Corps which was established by Congress on Febru-



Chanute Band at Margaret Harper Day.



ary 2, 1901. No Commander of the Corps held a higher rank than Col. Harper.

During World War II, Col. Harper served in the Southwest Pacific Theater as Chief Nurse of 155th Station Hospital in Australia and was based in New Guinea. In the European Theater she served as Chief Nurse for 123rd Evacuation Hospital and the 120th Station Hospital.

She received the Bronze Star Medal and Army Commendation Medal for services in World War II. She is a member of the American Nurses Association, the National League of Nursing and the Association for Military Surgeons of the United States.

This memorable day began with a parade through the business district to the municipal park west of town. The Fifth U. S. Army Band, the Fifth U. S. Color Guard, 3 platoons from A and C, troops of 1st Squadron, 106th Cavalry, National Guard from Danville and Potomac High School Band participated. The speakers were Brig. Gen. Conn L. Milburn, Jr., Deputy Surgeon General of the United States Army traveling from Washington, D.C. with Rep. Arends and Rep. Frances P. Bolton from Ohio's 22nd District.

R. G. Lanham, president of the Lions Club was chairman of the event; Frank Andrews, publicity; and Russell Biggs, grand parade marshal. Many others helped with the event.



Drum and Bugle Corp—Margaret Harper Day.



Joe Cannon, speaker at Old Settlers reunion at the park.

OLD SETTLERS REUNION

The first reunion was held August 19, 1885, in the R. G. Young grove north of the present location. Potomac was then known as Marysville. It is said that 2,000 persons attended coming on foot, horseback and in wagons.

There have been many distinguished speakers over the past 66-year period: Joseph G. (Uncle Joe) Cannon, Danville; Lee O'Neil Brown, State Representative of Ottawa; Congressman Henry Rathbone, Chicago; Dr. E. B. Cooley of Danville; former Attorney General Oscar Carlstrone, Alledo; former Congressman William P. Holaday of Georgetown; former Governor Dwight H. Green; and Congresswoman Jessie Sumner, Milford.

Mr. Hugh Luckey was president of the organization for many years. Entertainment for the day contained speeches, music and prizes. The prizes were awarded to the oldest lady present, the oldest man present, the couple married the longest, the couple with the largest family present, best looking girl baby under 1 year, best looking boy baby under 1 year, youngest twins present and the oldest twins in attendance. This annual reunion was sponsored by the Potomac Merchants.

1917

The July 4th celebration held at Potomac this year was a success in every way. A large crowd was in attendance—many coming from a great distance to meet old friends. The people began arriving early and at noon the grove was filled to overflowing.



Play at Opera House—Cora Bird, Lizzie Duncan, Bess Wallace, Rhoda Fox, ?, May Jeakins, ?, Ott McGlaughlin, Cora Scott, Margaret Goodwine, Abbie Riegle, Zula Griffin, Esther McGlaughlin, ?, Thelma Bird on chair.

The Potomac Band furnished music for the day and good singing was provided by local singers. Many speakers for the day were there.

Professor Dennis of Franklin, Indiana gave 2 of as fine balloon ascensions as were ever witnessed. Mr. Dennis has been here before and always draws his share of attention.

The swings were going from early morning until late in the evening.

The ballgame between Potomac and Oakwood ended 30 to 0 in favor of Potomac.

The celebration this year was one of the best!

CARNIVAL LICENSE REVOKED

--July 16, 1917

A small carnival arrived in Potomac Monday and started business on the Smith lot south of the depot. It was doing a small business in the first few days, but Thursday morning a couple of the members disagreed and engaged in a fistic combat in front of the hotel to decide their argument. One of them was arrested and fined, but the other made his escape. The village board then revoked their license and ordered them to quit business here.

About the only thing that the company carried that seemed to do any business was their swing and dance hall. Several funny experiences have been reported from the dance hall. It is said that one married man almost tore up the back end of the tent in escaping when his wife appeared on the scene looking for him. At the time of her arrival, he was dancing with one of the girls connected with the carnival; hence, his hasty departure. It is also said that she didn't see him before his departure and that he beat her home, then when she arrived, she was given an awful call-down for being out so late at the carnival.

Official Ballot

Town Ticket

Town of Middlefork



Republican



Democratic

FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (Vote for Two)

☐ JOSEPH O. HOPKINS

☐ W. H. GRAY



FOR CONSTABLE (Vote for Two)

☐ WM. O. CARTER

FOR CONSTABLE (Vote for Two)

☐ L. C. WILLIAMS



FITS Falling Sickness
CAN be CURED.

We will SEND FREE by mail a large TRIAL BOTTLE also, a treatise on Epilepsy. DON'T SUFFER ANY LONGER! Give Post Office, Name and County, and Age plainly.

Address, THE HALL CHEMICAL CO.,
3560 Fairmount Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

Organizations



Memorial Day—1965: Charles Remole, Vivian Hoth, Bobby Cox, Don Doran, George Save Allen, Lee Musser, Delbert Remole, Guy Judy, Curry, Voss Zeb Wise, Carl Talbott.

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 428

American Legion Post No. 428 was chartered Jan. 12, 1920, with 15 members. Joe Moss was the first Commander. Roy Lowe was Adjutant. The Post carried that name of Steadman Post from the G. A. R. days. Then after World War II the name was changed to "Harry Carpenter" in memory of Harry Carpenter, who lost his life February 5, 1918 when the transport ship "Tusconis" was torpedoed near the coast of Ireland. April of 1945 the Post Commander Fred Bennett and Leland Musser, Adjutant had an all time high of 81 members. The first Post was on State Street and then later moved to the location on Grant Street. During World War II we lost 6 boys. Then again in the Vietnam Conflict, we lost 1—David Judy. Of that first Charter, there are still 2 members—Leland Mersser and Thomas Baker.

Amvet Auxiliary
Lions Club
The Royal Neighbors
Faithful Workers Class—Church of Christ
Potomac Woman's Civic Club
P. T. A.
The Masons
The Artesia Past Matron's Club
American Legion Auxiliary
Potomac Home Bureau
Boy Scouts

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary charter was issued April 14, 1922, with 15 members. Mrs. Rebecca Blackford was the first President. The Auxiliary served the V. A. Hospital at Danville as well as working in County, District, State and National projects. The auxiliary was found to aid the American Legion in their peacetime program service to America. The unit sponsors poppy sales, collects coupons for equipment, and takes part in the 7-point program. Presently there are 35 senior members and 5 junior members. There are 15 charter members who held continuous membership from the duplicate charter in Dec. 1, 1945. Gold Star mothers are Maxine Lee Martin and Dora Burton. The unit has always had 100% quota in membership.

ORGANIZATIONS—1952

Intermediate Class—First Methodist Church
Potomac Junior Woman's Club
The WSCS @ Ladies Aid—EUB Church
The Jolly Euchre Club
Artesia Chapter No. 127 OES
Kum Duble Class—Methodist Church
Town Board
Potomac American Legion
The Amvets
Woman's Club of Potomac

POTOMAC WOMAN'S CIVIC CLUB

Potomac Woman's Civic Club was organized in March 4, 1939, in the home of Mrs. Nelle Stone, as the Jr. Woman's Club with Mary Lucky as the first president. It was federated with the state district in 1939, and with the General Federation of Women's Club in 1945. On June 2, 1950, it was revised to the Civic Club.

The club filled many needs in the community. It provided books and equipment for the town library. It also contributed to all federated works such as scholarships, Veterans Affairs, U. S. O., Cancer, Red Cross, Girl Scouts, Little League. It sent high school students to music and art camps, and sponsored hot lunch program at the grade school. The ladies have always worked in all community projects such as helping to buy the old grade school building, building of tennis courts, dug-outs for Little League, movies, and swimming lessons.

Back in '39 their Motto was, "Work with a construction crew, not a wrecking crew." Club flower—yellow rose, Club colors—yellow and white. Mrs. Leland Kinney is the current president. We have 33 members with 4 of those being charter members.

THE POTOMAC LIONS CLUB

By: Norval Burke

The Potomac Lions Club was sponsored by the Gibson City Lions Club. Twenty-five members signed the charter on August 10, 1931. Lions International sent Howard Chapel to Potomac to assist in organizing the club. I worked with Mr. Chapel in the organizing of the club, but without the help of George Reinhardt, Jesse Stone, Albert Rice, Uley Goodwine, Fred Duncan and others it would not have been possible to organize the club.

We held our Charter Nite at the Potomac U. B. Church, with District Governor Mark H. Whitmeyer of Peoria presenting the club the pins and charter. Donald Farnsworth played a trombone solo at this meeting.

The original charter members are as follows: Norval Burke, George Reinhardt, Albert Rice, J. A. Blackford, Chas. Jester, U. S. Goodwine, L. C. Williams, Louis Pinno, Paul Saunders, P. G. Batty, J. C. Alexander, Jesse Stone, Elmer Moreland, Alva

Montgomery, Bruce Harper, Palmer Smith, D. S. Cossairt, Hiram E. Ogle, George L. Hanson, W. H. Goodwine, Curtis Alexander, A. H. Wood, Fred Duncan, P. E. Reigle, and K. A. Harper.

The first-year officers of the club were: President Norval Burke; 1st Vice, J. A. Blackford; 2nd Vice, Albert Rice; 3rd Vice, P. C. Smith; Secretary, Charles Jester; Treasurer, U. S. Goodwine; Lion Tamer, L. C. Williams; Tail Twister, Louis Pinno; Directors—Paul Saunders, P. G. Batty, K. A. Harper and J. C. Alexander.

Through the years the club has engaged in numerous community activities:

In 1931, they provided 15 destitute families with large baskets of provisions at Christmas time, and toys for the children of 35 families.

In 1933, a cheese factory was secured for Potomac. In 1937, due to the close work of the club with Federal Representative Jame Meeks, and the extra effort of Lion Jesse Stone, Potomac was able to secure federal aid to build the high school building we are now using.

In 1941, the Potomac Club held their tenth anniversary at the high school, with Melvin Jones, the founder of The International Association of Lions Clubs as the guest of honor.

They sponsored a bond issue to purchase land west of town for the Community Park, built by WPA labor. During World War II they were active in Bond Drives, USO, and set up a lighted Military Honor Roll.

In 1950, the club was successful in securing a doctor for the town—Dr. Agusti.

In 1953, the club donated \$300 to the high school band for uniforms.

The club gives an annual award to the outstanding boy and girl high school graduate.

They donated \$390 to help pay for a school flasher signal.

In 1963, they sponsored Margaret Harper Day, honoring her retirement from the army. Margaret was the first woman to receive the rank of Colonel in the army. The Fifth Army Band was here and a lot of Top Brass.

The club's regular projects are: furnishing eye glasses to school children whose parents are unable to buy them, in the schools at Potomac, Armstrong and Newtown; contributing to Leader Dog, Hadley School for the blind, furnishing white canes, purchasing tape recorder for a blind high school student at Armstrong, buying a Braille Machine for the school for the blind in Champaign, refreshment stand building, basketball court in the David Judy Park, and it goes on and on.

The Potomac Lions Club sponsored the following clubs: Bismarck, Georgetown and Hoopes-ton (with Danville).

POTOMAC JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB

Potomac Junior Women's Club was formed in 1950, when the Women's Club of Potomac split into 3 groups. Phyllis McBroom was our first president, and Cheri Gallivan is our present president. The local club was affiliated with the Illinois Federation of Women's Club until April of 1972.

For some time we have participated in the Jubilee sponsored by the Community Council.

In January of 1971, the club started a project that took nearly 3½ years to complete. The project was a renovation of the Public Library. We painted and carpeted, and bought a drop box for the books.

In March of 1974, we were asked to help the Blood Mobile come to Potomac for the first time. In March of 1975, we had taken the Blood Mobile as a club project. This is a very time-consuming project, and we would not have been able to do the job we have done without the help and cooperation of the community, the donors, the churches and the many organizations. This is truly a community project.

In September of 1975, we were asked to sponsor the newly organized Brownie-Girl Scout troop. We are proud to help all we can. We are proud to be an active part of the Potomac Community in this our Centennial Year.

POTOMAC WOMAN'S CLUB

In the month of October, 1914, a group of women met and organized a club. The purpose of this club was education for better living and a wish to do bigger and better things for the community. They adopted a few by-laws. They had about 25 members.

Estella Moreland was elected their first president and served 4 different terms. They chose the name of "Domestic Science Club." Their flower was the carnation; the colors, pink and white. Their pledge was "We pledge ourselves to loyalty to each other and to the best interest of the club."

In 1915, the club became district federated, and since they were the only club in Potomac, they were called "The Potomac Woman's Club." They had spiritual programs, debates, needlecraft, music and drama at their meetings.

In 1916, the club became state federated. The collect was adopted and repeated at each meeting. Lena Smith was elected president for the county. Josie Stone was later elected.

In 1931, the club became county federated, and in 1954, the pledge of allegiance was adopted and "under God" was added and repeated at each meeting.

In 1955, at the home of Hazel Montgomery the club celebrated forty years membership with a special program. Four charter members were present. They told of experiences they had while they were president.

Our club is now 60 years old and we have accomplished many worthwhile projects. We have had 105 members, 33 presidents and 33 members who have passed away.

The club became general federated in 1946.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The idea for a council started at a meeting of Potomac Woman's Civic Club in October of 1958. In the year of 1959, the Community Council was born. The presidents and project committees of 5 civic service groups met and started the council. The councils first president was Dorsey McBroom. It is now Roger Fruhling.

Potomac's Community Council has made a gigantic contribution to Potomac's community life. Cooperation of organizations and individuals have made it all possible, but none of it could have been without competent leadership. Council presidents spend more time than anyone realizes on community work that pays no salary other than the satisfaction of a job well done.

THE POTOMAC HOMEMAKERS

The Potomac Home Bureau Unit was organized in 1933 with Mrs. Katherine Barstead Kraut serving as the first chairman. (Due to the fact that our records of the meetings from 1933-1936 were destroyed, our early history of the Unit is somewhat limited.) In 1936, there were 33 members on the roll. In 1938, the Unit received a loving cup for gaining 16 new members and dropping no members. As of January, 1976, we have 25 active members and 2 sustaining (inactive) members. There has been a total of approximately 193 women in the Unit over the past 43 years.

The first meetings were held in the homes of the members, then moved to the grade school, later to the library and then back into the homes again.

Members of the local unit that have served on the County Board include Mrs. Lida Stephens, Mrs. Edythe McConnell, Mrs. Lilah Voss, Mrs. Dorothy Davis and Mrs. Jean Davis.

One of the outreaches of the Home Bureau is the sponsoring of the local 4-H Clubs. The first 4-H Club was organized in 1937 with Mrs. Faye Cossairt as our first 4-H Chairman. Mrs. Marilyn

Hoshauer is presently serving as 4-H leader to the "Helpful Homemakers" with 16 members enrolled.

In 1939, the Unit sponsored a Library for adults and children which opened on September 8, 1939. The Unit was granted the use of the Village Hall for this purpose. The library was a WPA project, with the members of the Unit doing the painting, making the drapes, etc. Bookcases were loaned by the high school board, 150 books were donated by the WPA, over 100 books were donated by Mrs. Fontella Crouch Wood of Chicago, and a set of McGuffey Readers was donated by Henry Ford.

In February, 1962, the name of the organization was changed from Home Bureau to Vermilion County Home Economics Extension Service. As a member, the Potomac Homemakers Unit has co-operated in every way by participating in such diverse projects as serving lunch at the State Corn Husking Contest, baking 86 dozen cookies for the U. S. O., "Christmas in October", and helping with the Eastern Illinois Fair. Other activities include a vision and hearing clinic and a diabetes clinic.

One goal of the Homemakers is thinking of others. Ways we have done this are by dressing dolls for the Salvation Army (1962), making bibs for the Gifford nursing home (1972), and collecting colored bottles for V. A. craft projects. (1972)

In 1965-66, the Unit won a certificate from

the Cancer Association for accomplishing their "Pap" test goal.

Sixty-three persons received certificates for completing the Defensive Driving Course which the Unit sponsored in 1968.

Participation in community activities include contributions to the March of Dimes, Cancer Fund, and Community Council. In 1971, we began the tradition of sponsoring a "Bake-Off" at the annual Community Jubilee.

Homemakers have been busy over the last 43 years learning everything from child care to interior decorating to food preparation to financial planning to energy conservation as early as 1945. Less intellectual, but more fun "busy-ness" has been handkerchief showers, silent auctions, traveling bake sales, galloping teas, a sink contest, and the selling of napkins, cookbooks and tri-sodium phosphate.

Current officers for 1975-76 are Chairman, Mrs. Cheryl Cornell; First Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Rheta Forrest; Second Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Carol Addams; Secretary, Mrs. Karen Kennel; and Treasurer, Mrs. Sara Miles. Three current members that have been members for 25 years or longer: namely, Mrs. Anne Prillaman, Mrs. Minerva Hulse and Mrs. Emma Alice Leonard.



A group of 28 men of this vicinity have banded themselves together in a "Dewey Mustachio Club" and vowed to grow larger and better Mustaches until their favorite is elected to the White House. Confident that their hero will carry the G.O.P. banner to victory in Tuesday's election they have their razors honed and the mugs full of foam ready to off their extra attire on Wednesday. However should their color bearer fail in his endeavor to reach to the White House they are pledged to keep their lip adornment in good trim for another four years. Cabinet members, left to right seated are: Vice-President, Elza Bales; President, Dave Spain; Secretary-Treasurer, Richard G. Lanham; Frank Sollars and Boyd Dennison. Standing—Buck Spain, James Carpenter, Mark Judy, Jess Spain, Curtis D. Jameson, Hobert Reeves, and Wilbur Spain.



R.N.A. Convention, 1951—Front row neighbors: Hazel Musser, Eileen Claytor, Grace Tressner, Deputy—Laura B. Strongman, Decatur, IL, Supervisor—Tillie Albrecht, Champaign, IL, Oracle—Myrtle Anderson, County Oracle—Opal Hudson, Elsie Behimer, Ella Creighton, Gladys Spain. Back row neighbors: Marjorie Burroughs, Thelma Auten, Lena Pierce, Lula Mae Clem, Mabel VanNess, Jewell Tressner, Charlotte Musser, Margie Clementz, Mildred Hoshauer, Ruth Hudson, Cezar Imogene Hoshauer, Edith G. Duncan, Edith Morgan, Blanch Nelson, Clarice Morrison, Lilah Voss, Vada Hansen, Eva Waldron.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS FRATERNAL

Royal Neighbors of America—Camp Number 2877, located in Potomac, Illinois was instituted February 28, 1906, making it one of the oldest fraternities in town. Names appearing on the R. N. Charter are: Oscar G. Baril, Lillian M. & John W. Brindley, Catherine E. Cossairt, Emma Knott, Mary Lucky, Julia L. Magruder, C. C. Ransom, Jessie N. Roe, Otto B. Furrow, Earnest R. Duncan, Abbie D. Riegle, Minnie H. Seymour, Lulu Sperry, Emma

Wilson. As of now Myrtle Anderson is the oldest member. She is 91 years young, and was recorder for 7 years.

The order meets once a month in neighbors' homes and has a social hour of playing bingo. We have 140 paying members. Oracle for 1976-77 is Mildred Curtis. In all those years there have been only 5 recorders with Edith Hall doing it today.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

On September, 1888, Deputy Grand Patron W. A. Aldrich announced the object of the meeting and administered an obligation to the following brother Master Masons and their wives: Brother C. E. Pressey and wife Emily L. Pressey, A. B. Tilton and wife Lizzie Tilton, J. A. Littler and wife Mary A. Littler, Samuel Flaningam and wife Jennie Flaningam, G. C. Howard and wife Emma Howard, T. W. Buckingham and wife W. A. Buckingham, Sister Christine Doney and Nannie Griffith. The dispensation was read and the chapter was then instituted. This was the beginning of the Order of the Eastern

Star of Potomac, Illinois.

W. O. Butler, the Grand Patron, signed and sealed this dispensation on the 21st of September, 1888. At this time it was resolved that the name of the chapter would be Artesia. Then the process of recording all the By-Laws of the chapter was begun and completed on October 3rd, 1888. The building is still in good shape and the one major repair to it occurred in 1971 when the west wall had to be completely re-done since it had collapsed from a lot of rain leaking through. The organization has gone on all these years because of the loy-

alty of its members. The present Worthy Mason and Worthy Patron is Mary Lou Dishman and husband William Dishman. A special note to this history is the fact that there are 15 living 50-year members today. That is a very special honor in itself.

EVENTS OF INTEREST
 THAT OCCURRED DURING THE
 PAST WEEK.

POTOMAC MASONIC LODGE NO. 782

The Potomac Masonic Lodge No. 782 was chartered in Chicago on October 6, 1887, by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois, with the following members: F. P. French, A. B. Tilton, J. A. Littler, Marion Goodwine, J. D. Anderson, E. A. Brown, C. E. Pressey, T. W. Buckingham, George E. Crays, H. Radermacher, P. F. Oliver, Guy C. Howard, G. White, L. H. Griffith, C. G. Miles, J. W. Terpening, J. E. Copeland, M. C. Donney, George A. May, C. A. Jameson, B. D. Wise, Fred Bass, J. E. P. Butz, John Coon, George W. Luckey, Thompson Roe, A. M. Parker, David H. Cade, F. A. Collison, Barton Evers and Rigdon Potter.

Brother F. P. French served as the first Worshipful Master, A. B. Tilton was Senior Warden and J. A. Littler was Junior Warden.

The first Masonic Lodge met upstairs in the building located on the southeast corner of the main intersection in Potomac. This same lodge room was used by the Knights of Pythias Lodge.

In a stated meeting on October 26, 1905, a committee was appointed to secure a lodge room from Dr. L. C. Messner for \$75 per year for 5 years. The lodge moved to this location on the northwest corner of the main intersection on January 1, 1906 where it still meets regularly on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

Repairing and remodeling to the Temple has been done on a number of occasions during the years, including extensive work on the lodge room in 1929, when the walls were papered, a new carpet was laid and the first electric lesser lights were purchased. The Lodge purchased the Temple in 1960, and again extensive remodeling was done over the next several years with the eliminating of coal stoves and the additions of restrooms. The most recent improvements were made during 1975, when the walls were painted and an air conditioner was installed in the north wall. A new carpet was laid in the lodge room as a gift from Alva H. Montgomery, Sr., who was a Past Master of Potomac Lodge and a fifty-year member of this lodge at the time of his death.

The living fifty-year members of Potomac Lodge are: Lester M. Burd, Wayne B. Hoskins, Walter S. Parrish, Sr., Louis H. Pinno, Glenn H. Seymour, Alvin G. Luckey, Dewey Foster and Joseph W. Kieser.

The Past Masters of Potomac Masonic Lodge No. 782 and years they served are:

T. P. French—1887, 1888, 1889; J. A. Littler—1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1896, 1897, 1902, 1903; L. D. Oberlin—1894, 1895; A. M. Johnson—1898, 1899, 1900; A. Sperry—1901, 1905; H. M. Luckey—1904, 1906, 1908, 1910, 1911, 1915, 1918; W. H. Gray—1907; J. F. Payne—1909; J. C. Moss—1912, 1913, 1914; D. S. Cossairt—1916, 1920, 1929, 1930, 1945; C. H. Jester—1917, W. H. Moyer—1919; J. A. Blackford—1921; E. J. Wise—1922; Lester M. Burd—1923, 1931; K. A. Harper—1924; Alva H. Montgomery—1925; E. J. Smith—1926; D. E. Goodwine—1927; Frank McCormick—1928; Z. H. Wise—1932; Louis H. Pinno—1933; F. B. King—1934; Homer E. Butz—1935; Walter B. Cooper—1936; 1943; Amiel Beck—1937; William Jameson—1938, 1939; H. G. Lanham—1940; A. H. Morrison—1941; Carl Walters—1942; F. M. Johnson—1944; Bert Hall—1946; Griffith Johnson—1947; Walter Cossett—1948; G. M. Claytor—1949; W. D. Redman—1950; M. B. Duncan—1953; D. E. Farnsworth—1954; Wilbur Arford—1955; Gene King—1956; Robert Beck, Jr.—1957; Norval Burke—1958; Lyle Hamilton—1959; Chester Powell—1960; Homer Davis—1961; Harold Kile—1962; Everett Ellis—1963; Thomas Hawkins—1964; Gilbert H. Pugh—1965; Mason Burd—1966; John G. Jibben—1967; Donald G. Davis—1968; James King—1969; Richard Jameson—1970; John R. Lane—1971; Donald W. Davis—1972; Harry C. Kuchenbrod—1973, 1975; Donald E. Doran—1974.

The officers for 1976 are: Alva H. Montgomery, Jr., Worshipful Master; John R. Lane, Senior Warden; Ronald L. Ogburn, Junior Warden; Harry C. Kuchenbrod, Treasurer; Donald W. Davis, Secretary; Chester Powell, Chaplain; Norval Burke, Senior Deacon; John Grant, Junior Deacon; Wilbur Arford, Senior Stewart; Chester Atchison, Junior Stewart; Bert Knoll, Marshall; Donald Doran, Tyler.

Potomac Lodge No. 782 A. F. & A. M.; 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at City Hall; J. A. Littler W. M.; M. L. Flannigan, Secretary.

Artisia Chapter No. 127; 1st and 3rd Friday of each month at City Hall; Mrs. Lizzie Tilton W. M.; T. W. Buckingham W. P.; Mrs. Collison, Secretary.

Monte Cristo Lodge No. 470 K of P; Wednesday night of each week at City Hall; W. T. Buckingham C. C.; E. T. Jester of Rand S.

Latta Rebekah Lodge No. 292; Saturday night of each week in J. H. Griggs Hall; Allie McCombs, N. B.; Menta Flanigan, Secretary.

Middlefork Lodge No. 111 I. O. O. F.; meets Tuesday night of each week in J. H. Griggs Hall; Walter Pilkenton, N. G.; W. L. Bentley, Secretary.

Artesian Comp No. 678, M. W. A.; meets Monday night of each week in J. H. Griggs Hall; Wm. Gray V. C.; C. G. Layton, Secretary.

Potomac Lodge No. 889 I. O. G. T.; meets every Tuesday night in City Hall; Elmer Moreland, C. T.; Clyde Buckingham, Secretary.

Potomac Court of Honor No 238, meets at City Hall 2nd and 4th Friday of each month; W. L. Bentley, S. C.; Lew Oberling, Secretary.

Middlefork Minute Men: meets 4th Saturday of each month; H. L. Terpening and John Duncan, Secretary.

Steadman Post No. 252 G. A. R.; meets each 2nd and 4th Saturday in each month at City Hall; Charles Ingersol, Commander.



Disasters



High water over pavement south of Potomac, March 12, 1939.

Flood of April 20th, 1964.



FLOOD

The Middlefork River runs along the south edge of Potomac and every once in awhile it does flood. Back in 1939, as the picture shows, it was up to the very edge of the town. No homes were flooded, but it was awhile before it went down. Most of the time the river runs serenely along, but at times of heavy rainfalls, it, too, can go on a rampage. In the last 20 years it has seen many a heavy rainfall and the streets have been flooded, but by morning everything is running smoothly again. Right now they're putting in new sewers and curbing so that should take care of the heavy rainfalls.



Snowstorm of February, 1964.

EARTHQUAKE

In April of 1967, everyone was working as usual when about 11:00 A.M. everything began to shake and rattle on the walls and shelves. It lasted about 1 minute, but it was an experience a person wouldn't forget in a lifetime.

Imagine Central Illinois having an earthquake! That's what shook Potomac that beautiful sunny morning.

SNOW AND ICE

Heavy snows and teeth-chattering temperatures are not uncommon in this area, and may have occurred more often in the "olden days," but there was not quite the inconvenience then, because people could stay at home and wait until such time as the roads were cleared or they could get out with horse drawn sleds or on foot. With modern vehicles, and electric homes, a blizzard or ice storm paralyzes traffic and makes cold homes.

The ice storms of '59 and '67 both crippled Potomac. It was lucky for the ones who didn't have to travel out of town, but it was cold trying to work in the unheated businesses. Few trucks got into town with bread and milk.

In 1964, a snowstorm hit on a Saturday night coming from the northeast. The viaduct over on Route 136 was full—traffic couldn't move. The deep drifts made travel impossible and schools were closed. Service stations were busy with calls for towing service, tires, chains and batteries.

In '65, we had another snowstorm on February 25th, and we couldn't get out of town for 2 days. I remember Bill Downing cleaned the street past our home 2 times a day—it kept blowing full again.

Even today the mention of an ice storm or big snow causes families to clean the grocery shelf of bread and milk. The ice storm in Jan. of '76 was bad, but not enough to cut off electrical power.

GROWING OLD

When I was young, my slippers were red.
And I could kick as high as my head.

As older I grew, my slippers were blue.
Couldn't kick as high as I used to do.

Now I am old, my slippers are black.
I walk to the corner, and slowly walk back.

How do I know my youth is all spent?
Why, my get-up-and-go has all got up and went.

But I shed not a tear as I think with a grin
Of all the grand places my get-up has been.

--Alfred Talbot

Cemeteries

POTOMAC CEMETERY

The land for the cemetery was donated by Morehead and Luckey and this is Morehead 1st Addition. Mary Luckey donated the land for Luckey 2nd and 3rd Addition and Mr. Rice for the 4th Addition.

In days when this was first beginning, the lots were sold at a very low price and the graves were dug by neighbors and friends. Then in 1900, Frank Golliday began to do digging and take care of people's lots for a small fee. After his passing on, Bert Moore was caretaker for several years. In 1949, Harold Boggess began working and has taken care of it for 77 years.

WALLACE CHAPEL CEMETERY

Wallace Chapel Cemetery was older than the church. Several stones date back to 1853. Many Civil War Veterans are buried here.

THE INGERSOLL CEMETERY

The Ingersoll Cemetery is along the creek bank northwest of town located on the James Parsons' land.



Harold Boggess—Caretaker

Those Good Ole Days

I TOO RECALL THE "GOOD, OLE DAYS"

Ruth Davis Nash

My mother, Mary Jane Foreman, and baby brother were brought by her father in a covered wagon from Ohio to the Sugar Grove area near Penfield to live with her grandparents following the death of their mother. Mother was eighteen months old at the time. In 1883, her grandparents moved to Potomac. In 1887, she was married to George Washington Davis and lived in the same home where she reared 5 children. He was born in Bean Creek area, 1 of 11 children. Nelle Messner and Grant Layton, their friends, were married the same day. Being neighbors across the alley complicated things so neither could attend the other's nuptials.

As long as I could remember, my mother sewed for people, charging \$1.00 for a dress and 25¢ for shortening men's pants. Often it was my duty to carry notes to slow payers asking for the small fees. I used to watch my mother make newspaper and brown paper patterns for several extra-large ladies she sewed for. She made baby clothes for Mrs. John Goodwine for Wayne.

In the early 1900's, gypsies hit Potomac and the kids all high-tailed it for home for fear the roving tribes would catch them. Tomatoes, vegetables and poultry were watched because these were the snitches.

My Dad was a lover of the outdoors and he used to take my brother Harold and me for long walks in the woods and down the railroad and across the bridges.

Fourth of July and Old Settlers Reunions were great days with the merry-go-round, ferris wheel, stands, bands, programs and fireworks. Too, there was the Jerry Butz fish pond at the east edge of Potomac— a pond with fish and ducks, surrounded by peonies and benches all enclosed with a fence and a gate, a great place to rest.

Mr. Butz was the grandfather of the well-known VanDoren boys: Carl, a writer, Paul and Charles, \$64,000 Question Program.

I recall my friends Robert and Kate Young who kept school teachers, sold milk, owned a meat market, butchered his own animals, gave liver and cracklings away and sold steak at 25¢ a pound— enough for a meal for five. Mr. Young also in his younger days fed cattle for Abraham Mann near

Rossville. Kate was the daughter of Benjamin Franklin of Myersville. He hand dug our well and they say he almost drowned because the water came in too fast.

John Payne and wife had a general store and by helping them, my brothers and I were able to contribute to our family food supply. Dad died in 1912, and we all had to pitch in. We got 25¢ an hour. The store had delivery service— a big box type wagon pulled by a horse. I recall the time the horse ran off and my brother Floyd came home in a bad humor. Allie Morrison also was a delivery boy. Uncle Merrill Jameson, Hazel Alexander, Louise Watters, Mable Payne, my two brothers and I were the working crew at the store.

At the age of 7 I got the scarlet fever bug. Mother and I were in quarantine, so we had to have one of the first phones. It had a big old box below to hold the batteries. Ours was number 11. Our doctor was S. Cossairt. He almost always came in wearing a raincoat.

The old Opera House had its heydays: road shows like medicine shows, home talent plays, school plays, sales and dances— quite a place of enjoyment. I was working at Payne's store and took off time to go to a children's day program at the church.

To my memory, the outstanding speechmaker was none other than Curtis J. Ermentrout. I can see him yet, newly starched blouse, tie and knee pants, walking upon the stage, red-faced and cheeks puffed out like a turkey cock. After a minute or two of silence, he came forth with, "I guess I can't say it!" which was hilarious and, to this day, sometimes it's best not to speak our piece.

THE CHRISTENING OF OLD BEAN CREEK

Peculiar Yarn by an Early Settler Led to Changing
Of Name of East Branch of Creek
(Press-Democrat Special)

Potomac, Ill., Nov. 7— The eastern branch of the Middlefork, known in the early days as Sullivan's

branch, but since 1851 known by its present appellation of Bean Creek, received this mid-century rechristening as the result of a strange tale told by one of the early settlers, Albright by name. While Albright's stories were of such magnitude that he could not be accused of trying to deceive anyone, he was regarded with some horror by the more religious old ladies of the early pioneer days. They are said, however, to have delighted in repeating some of his stories.

According to Albright's story, told among residents of other parts of the country where he visited, the people who lived near him along the banks of the creek might be likened to the wandering tribes of Israel. In their manner of sustaining life. "Way," said the pioneer Aesop, "the stream flows bean soup, and the banks along the stream are bordered by a thick growth of this nutritious vegetable, ready baked to a most appetizing grown for the table. We just naturally go out and collect it every day, except Sundays, as the wandering tribes of Israel gathered manna in the wilderness. I was at first surprised at finding such delicious baked beans on every table when I passed through that country buying steers,

but that was easily explained when I learned from whence they came." The yarn was enough to give the name to the stream.

In regard to some other locality he used to tell that when he one night remained with his men, he slept in the house and they in the barn. During the night, so he told, the bedbugs rolled him over and over until he thought to escape them by seeking shelter in the barn. Starting for the stable, he heard a terrible noise, resembling the roar and clatter of an old-fashioned threshing machine. Hastening into the doorway, he found his men engaged in a battle with an army of fleas which had made the barn their home. And yet they say that the early settlers were up against such stern facts that they had no chance to develop their imaginations.

The land along Bean Creek was well adapted to cattle-grazing, and many of the earlier settlers entered every foot of it at that time obtainable, and later became rich from the sale of cattle. The land is today among the most valuable tracts in the county, but it can truly be said that never has a man with the Albright type of imagination been produced there.



Bean Creek School

BLUE GRASS

Written by: Gladys Auth Judy, Ruby Crawford
Judy and Martha Judy Day

History tells us that Blue Grass began the same year as Chicago. It was located on what was known as the old Attica Trail.

The country was all open prairie with lots of swampy land; consequently, hordes of mosquitos and malaria in hot weather.

Some of the early settlers around Blue Grass were Nicholas Judy and family ½ mile east.

They were the parents of Gabe Judy, Isaac Judy and Ambrose Judy. Ambrose Judy founded the "Judy School" in later years 1 mile south of Blue Grass. A McDonald family lived on east of the Judys.

To the west were Abraham Talbott, Cordell family, Goetschies and David Judy (my grandfather). Three miles west of Blue Grass was my Great Grandfather Wright.

In Blue Grass were Wilsons, Pilkingtons, Furrors, Schnelles, Sollars and Artongs.

The Judys, Wrights and Talbotts came from West Virginia. Nicholas Judy and Great Grandfather Wright came in the year 1852. All of these people, no doubt, came by covered wagon.

My father William G. Judy was born 1½ miles west of Blue Grass in 1870.

These people, and more, would come on horseback and on foot for their mail at the Blue Grass Post Office. No doubt they bought what supplies necessary there, as there was at least one general store.

At one time there were 2 blacksmith shops and several houses and the school house.

A large two-story square house on the southwest corner was owned by a Pilkington family. We were told it was a hotel—probably called an Inn at that time. To the west of that was the general store. Then farther south was the John Artong home.

Mr. Artong had a blacksmith shop on the southeast corner and as late as 1908 to 1910 Mr. Artong would set the tires on wagons and buggies, repair and make machinery, sharpen plow shares, make wagon tongues, and double trees, and shoe horses as needed. There was no mechanical machinery or automobiles at that time.

On the far northwest was an empty blacksmith building then belonging to the Nichols. Mr. & Mrs. Nichols had 4 children: Tom, Oscar, Linnie (Dade to us) and Orrel (or Babe).

The schoolhouse was in the northeast corner of Blue Grass. It was a one-room building with a pot-bellied stove in the middle of the floor and a row of seats and desks on each side. The ones near the stove cooked, and the ones far away froze in cold weather.

My father, my brothers and sisters, and I, also my 3 older children attended school in this building.

Just before Christmas in 1935, the old building caught fire and burned to the ground. Fortunately for the teacher and pupils, the building burned at night.

There were 30 or more pupils attending so arrangements had to be made to finish the term.

The school directors (School Board now) went to Danville to the C & E I railroad shops and bought a caboose which was moved to the school grounds. The pupils finished out the term in that and by the time school started in the fall, a new, (what was then) modern building had been built with basement and a furnace.

That school was used until only 2 pupils were left in the district. Those pupils were bussed to Potomac Grade School.

Edmond Butz was the teacher when the school burned. The building was sold for a dwelling house to Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Talbott and has since been remodeled and presently owned and lived in by Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Rumble and family.

On the northwest corner, the Bob Spain family have a home.

The rest of Blue Grass is farm ground at the present time.

REMEMBER . . .

There was a Klu Klux Klan formed in Potomac by a man by the name of Clint Rice who was the Grand Dragon. They burned a cross west of town and one at the cemetery. They had white masks on their heads and faces and white robes draped around them. They formed a vigilante group and people were afraid of them. It did not last long and they soon disbanded.

The present "squaw" winter put a decided stop to garden making—May 7, 1897.

A BIT OF HISTORY

By Ruby Judy

Potomac has been the hometown of my family of my family for more than 100 years. My Great Grandfather Josiah Crawford settled in Illinois in 1836 on the Danville road. He frequently went to Chicago with a team and produce and returned with salt. There was at this time only 1 house between his and Chicago.

His son, our Grandfather William Crawford and family lived on a farm on the "eight mile" as it was then called (east of Potomac and northeast of Jamesburg).

We have heard through the years that Grandfather Crawford saw Abe Lincoln. He went to Mattoon to hear him speak.

When our father, Jesse J. Crawford and mother, Lola Caton Crawford were married in 1892, they went to housekeeping on a farm about 2 miles northeast of Jamesburg. I was the first child, Ruby, and then my sister Nelle and brother Carroll were born in that home. A few years later in 1899, my father had the idea of moving to Potomac and running a Livery Stable. That was a new venture but every town had a livery stable, where they kept horses to hire out for driving or riding. There were no cars then. We lived in Potomac only a year. I can remember the livery stable very well. It was on the main street near the downtown area.

When we lived in Potomac our family attended the United Brethren Church. My mother taught a Sunday School class of young girls. I remember were Adaline Smith, Leota Smith, Marie Woods and the Moss twins.

In those days everyone from miles around went to Potomac park to celebrate the 4th of July. There would be speakers and singing, also much visiting, with fire crackers all around. There was a horse-drawn hack (a coach for hire), that made trips from the town out to the park and back. The charge was 5¢. Families came with horses and carriages and brought picnic dinners to spread on a tablecloth on the grass.

My grandparents on Mother's side were William Harvey Acton and Jane Laflen Acton.

In Grandfather and Grandmother Acton's later years they lived in Potomac. Their youngest son Dow Acton graduated from Potomac High School. Dow Acton then graduated from law school in George Washington University, Washington, D.C. He practiced Law for 50 years in Danville, Ill. He and Una Dale were married in 1915 in Danville. Their 3 sons are Bob, Bill and Jack Acton.

My parents lived in Danville 4 years. It was there that I graduated from Danville High School. Later I taught in the country schools. I taught in the Wallace Chapel school from 1913 to 1915. I boarded in Potomac at the home of my Aunt Minnie and Uncle Sant (Dr. & Mrs. Cossairt). And I walked out to my school 3 miles northwest of Potomac each day. Sometimes I stayed with some of my pupils to attend a party or go to church. It was in my first year out there that I met the young man who was to be my husband. The Wallace Chapel Church was having prayer meetings in the homes. They were called cottage prayer meetings. It was there that a friend introduced me to Olen Judy.

That spring Olen Judy and Maurice Lyle went out west to work. Maurice landed in Iowa but Olen went on to Laramie, Wyoming where he got a job on a ranch with a nice family. His work was mainly with cattle, and he spent some time living in a far corner of the ranch in a bunkhouse, cooking for cowhands. He also started a Sunday School in a school house, as there were no churches near. He came back in the fall, but his memories of Wyoming were pleasant ones. We had our first date at Christmas in 1914; when we went to the Christmas program at Wallace Chapel Church. I remember Judy School girls were there in a group and they sang "Silent Night, Holy Night." Mrs. Gordon was matron of the school then. The "Mary A. Judy School" was founded by Mr. Ambrose Judy, a second cousin of Olen Judy. It was a school for orphan girls out in the country, northwest of Potomac, and was under direction of the Illinois Children's Home & Aid Society, in Chicago.

Olen Judy and I were married in January of 1916, and went to housekeeping on a farm northwest of Potomac, on the Ellis road.

REMEMBER . . .

There were large bands of gypsies that used to come to town. They camped in the Jack Goodwine timber east of town. They had a large number of horses and mules that they liked to trade. The women would invade the town begging for food and telling fortunes. The men wore large hats or bandanas wrapped around their heads, boots and fancy shirts. The ladies wore bright colored shirts and low necked blouses and lots of rings and beads. They were very dark skinned with black hair.

Written by: Marthann Judy Day

When I was a little girl, Potomac seemed like a big town. Two banks, stores, churches, businesses of several kinds, at least 2 doctors and gushing artesian wells made Potomac a busy meeting place, not only for its residents, but for the farm families from miles around.

My parents, Olen and Ruby Judy, moved to a little white frame house on the Ellis-Blue Grass road after their marriage in 1916. They planted a fruit orchard and vegetable garden, set out shade trees,, flowers and shrubs. I remember the pink Rambler roses and pink almond bushes by our front porch and the tall, colorful hollyhocks rimming the vegetable garden in back. A smokehouse, with its pungent hickory smell, was in the sideyard, as well as a cob house. Its dry, red cobs kept the kitchen fire going for my mother's cooking and baking.

Every Sunday morning my father drove our white horse, Jack, and the buggy from the barn to the hitching rail in front of the house and soon we would be on our way to Wallace Chapel Church. In the winter, if there was a heavy snow, we sometimes went to church in a sleigh, with jingling sleigh bells fastened to the horse's harness. Sunday was a day of worship and visiting with relatives and neighbors. The minister lived in Potomac and he divided his time between the Methodist Church in town and the Wallace Chapel Church. Mrs. Laura Goetschius was Sunday School teacher for the younger children. She told us Bible stories and explained pictures of the Biblical characters, making them very real for us.

Christmas programs at Wallace Chapel were exciting times. Each Sunday School class gave "recitations," and all the congregation listened to the reading of the Christmas story and sang carols. Sometimes a real tree was decorated by the side of the altar, and after the program the children would receive little Christmas boxes filled with mixed, hard candy.

Decoration Day was another well-remembered occasion. Soldiers' graves, in the cemetery next to the church, were marked with flags and the children would line up in twos and march about the graveyard with armfuls of fresh flowers, placing a bouquet carefully on each veteran's grave. Three Civil War soldiers were still living, including Mr. Ambrose Judy, Mr. Littler and Mr. LaGrange. They would attend the ceremony, dressed in their old blue uniforms. One of them would recite the Gettysburg Address. Members of the American Legion

would then fire volleys of shot across the graves and we children would hold our hands over our ears as the acrid shell smoke drifted away.

In 1924, when I was in second grade, my parents moved near the Mary A. Judy School, where my father would work for many years. Even nearer to us than the Judy School was the home of its founder, Mr. Ambrose B. Judy, who had built the school as a home for orphaned girls and named it in honor of his mother. When we moved next door to him, he was a widower and had no children of his own. Since he was in his eighties, our parents decided we would call him "Mr. Ambrose." (He was our Grandfather Judy's first cousin.) "Mr. Ambrose" was not as formal as "Mr. Judy," but more fitting than if we children called him "Ambrose." He seemed to enjoy having children living nearby: there were 6 of us as the years went by—my brothers Allen, Scott, David and Dan, and my sister Carol and I. We played in his yard as much as we did in ours and picked the violets in his sideyard because they were larger and the stems were longer than the ones in our yard!

When I was 10 years old, Mr. Ambrose would sometimes ask my mother if I could help him. He cultivated a small field about ¼ mile from home, raising enough corn to feed his horse, "Old Nelle." She was a gentle, bay mare and we were allowed to ride her, although we preferred to ride Fannie when she wasn't needed for field work. Fannie had more pep and we didn't feel guilty riding her at a gallop. Mr. Ambrose had rigged up a small cultivator, pulled by Old Nelle, and he decided it would be better if he could concentrate on guiding the plow and have me guide the horse. When it was time to weed the field he would ask if I could help him, and of course my mother would say "yes." I would go with him, sit on the tool box near the shafts, and guide Old Nelle between the rows of corn. The sun would be hot, sweat bees would be lighting on us, dust swirling up to our hot faces, and I would wish I were home reading a book in our shady front yard. Mr. Ambrose knew when I was getting tired and he would tell me we would sit in the shade. He would tell me about General Andrew Jackson in the Civil War, who would encourage his men by saying, "We will cross over to the river and rest under the shade of the trees." We would usually work only a half day and when we would get home he would pay me a quarter. He asked me to help him with other chores and even

had me trim his hair, and would pay me accordingly.

Mr. Ambrose knew I liked to ride horseback so he suggested I save my money to buy a bridle of my own. He needed a new one and was going to order it from the Sears, Roebuck catalog. I had never considered saving my money for something like that and it sounded like a great idea. He waited for me to earn enough money to pay for a bridle and then we chose the kind we wanted from the catalog and I watched him write the order for 2 bridles. In a few days he called me over and said the package had just come in the mail. I was a proud, excited child when I opened my part of the package. A light tan leather bridle with fringed tassels on each side! What a good leathery smell!

The Bridle:

That bridle was soon to become involved in a most exciting event. One hot, sunny morning Mr. Ambrose walked to his little field to hoe around the corn. He left a young man, who had been visiting his sister at the Judy School, asleep in the house. Mr. Ambrose had offered to put him up for the night and then the young fellow was going back to the city. When Mr. Ambrose came home at noon to feed and water Old Nelle before going to the house for his own dinner he discovered she was gone. He went into the house. The young man was gone! My father came in from the field about that time and Mr. Ambrose hurried over to tell him the startling news. My father said he would go with him to look for the missing horse just as soon as he could water and feed his team and eat a bite himself. Checking around the harness shed while the team was drinking, he discovered his good western saddle was missing and so was my new bridle. What a turn of events that was! Dad said I could go with him and Mr. Ambrose to look for Old Nelle, so I gulped down some dinner too, and climbed into the back seat of the 1922 Dodge and away we went.

The Chase:

We sped along the dusty, dirt road until we got to the outskirts of Potomac where the pavement started. The first person we saw was Mr. K. A. Harper, owner of the grain elevator. He was sitting in front of his office, taking it easy. Dad stopped, and after a quick "hello" asked, "Did you happen to see a young man riding by on a bay mare?"

"Why yes," replied Mr. Harper. "I was just starting to walk to the post office this morning when this young fellow came along on his horse and we talked all the way downtown. I told him 'good-bye' and went in the post office." My father

quickly explained that the horse had been stolen and that we must get on our way, thanked Mr. Harper for his information, and headed east through town. At each crossroad we would look up and down, but kept on the narrow pavement through Jamesburg and on towards the Dixie Highway. Finally, we saw Mr. Percy Britain and his family picnicking along the road. (Mr. Britain was music teacher in Potomac. He and his family had evidently walked all those miles on a day's outing.) They said a young man had ridden by on a horse earlier in the day. Soon we arrived at Moore's Corner, the intersection of the Jamesburg road and Dixie Highway. In front of the corner gas station sat a motorcycle policeman talking to the station attendant. My father drove up, called to the 2 men and asked if they had seen a man on horseback go by. The station operator said he had seen the horseman turn the corner and head south on the Dixie Highway about an hour earlier. Dad and Mr. Ambrose explained that the horse had been stolen. The police officer jumped on his motorcycle, started it with a roar, and said reassuringly, "We'll catch him!" and sped off down the road. I was wide-eyed at this lucky encounter. The Law was going to help us! (It was as thrilling as a Western movie—only, of course, I had never seen a movie!) We started south too, but the policeman was soon out of sight. We drove for a few miles and then Dad decided we'd better inquire of someone if they had seen the horse thief. He stopped and asked some highway workmen the same question he had been asking all afternoon. They hadn't seen anyone on a horse.

"We'd better turn around and see if we can pick up his trail farther back," Dad said, and Mr. Ambrose agreed to wait there by the side of the road to convey that message to the motorcycle officer if, and when, he came back. Dad and I turned around, retraced our steps a mile or so and stopped by a steep, rut-filled driveway and walked up to the house. A tired-looking woman answered the door. My father asked if she had seen a young man riding a horse by that afternoon. She seemed surprised at the question and said, "Yes, someone like that stopped a short time ago and offered to sell me a horse and saddle. I didn't need the saddle, but I bought the horse to pull the garden plow. I paid \$7.00 for it. The boy said he'd come back later for the saddle and bridle."

Dad asked her if we might see the horse. She looked at us suspiciously but led the way to a small lean-to at the back of the house, and there, in a small fenced enclosure was a tired horse munching on hay. Dad looked at me and said quietly, "There's Old Nelle." About that time the policeman came down the road. Mr. Ambrose was riding in the sidecar of the motorcycle. We flagged them

down, and while the policeman explained to the woman that she had bought a stolen horse, Mr. Ambrose hurried to see his faithful old animal.

Mr. Ambrose insisted he would ride Old Nelle home. Dad decided he would hurry home, do the evening chores, and then pick up Grant Judy, (a nephew of Mr. Ambrose's) bring him back to meet horse and rider. Grant would then finish riding the horse and Mr. Ambrose would continue home in the car. By the time Dad and Grant met Mr. Ambrose, he declared he wasn't tired and rode Nelle the rest of the way home.

That was the most exciting day of my young life. I was happy that Old Nelle was back home safe and sound, happy that my father had his good western saddle back, and very relieved that my hard-earned bridle was again hanging on its nail in the harness shed.

ALFRED TALBOTT

Written by: Mary Jane Yard

My father, Alfred Talbott, was born on March 12, 1880, on a farm west of Blue Grass. His grandparents, Benjamin Johnson and Sarah Parsons Talbott, had migrated to Illinois from West Virginia in 1865. His parents Abraham Parsons and Mary Louise Burd Talbott lived across the road and a little east of the present John Gray farm home.

Except for a year (about 1900) when he attended Northwestern University at Evanston, he spent his entire life on his parents' homelace and at the first house east of the bridge which I remember as our homelace, even though he did teach some at a rural school. His college education was interrupted by his father's serious illness and he took over the farm permanently. The first house I lived in there was destroyed by fire in 1927, and Dad built another on the same spot.

After attending Blue Grass Grade School, Dad graduated from Potomac's then two-year high school.

Dad was married first in 1906 to Anna Tyler of Potomac. Their first child, a daughter, died at birth. The baby's mother died in 1914, leaving Dad with a daughter Ruth, about 5 years old, and a son Paul, 4 days old.

He next married my mother, Blanche Golliday, also of Potomac, in 1917. She died in 1928, leaving him with four small children ages 7½ to 20 months: Gordon, Tom, Jr., and myself, the youngest.

Much later in 1944, Dad married Carrie Foster of Armstrong and she died in 1957. He then married Leona Laird of Milford who outlived him by only 10 weeks.

REMEMBER . . .

In the early days the west part of town was a wild place and was known as "Oklahoma". There was a "blind pig" located there. It was a house where liquor could be bought as the town was dry. Liquor could only be obtained there at night. A customer could knock at the door, place their money on a tray and a bottle of whiskey came out of a chute.

For entertainment in the winter time, people skated on the creek south of town. There were many fancy skaters. They were Elmer Moreland, Bess Dague, Mort Hall, John Moreland, Estella Thomas, John Morrison, Dr. Cossairt and many more.

My earliest memories of my Dad was of a hard-working man who always worked as hard or harder than those he worked with and never expected others to do what he wouldn't or didn't do.

Still other early memories concerned our "almost every" Sunday attendance at Sunday School and church, if both were held. There was never any question of what we were going to do on Sunday like there often is today. Five generations of the family attended Wallace Chapel Church which was begun in 1854, named after Peter Wallace and survived some 10 to 15 years after it celebrated its centennial in 1954.

The fact that my Dad was an avid reader of all the good material he could get—newspapers, religious material and good books—has probably been the greatest contributing factor to my deep interest in books.

He traveled to all corners of the United States many times in the last twenty years of his life, though I can remember very few trips in the other twenty years of my life.

He remained active and continued to travel, garden and read until 2 months before his death in November 27, 1965.

If I were asked what was the greatest legacy my father left me, it could not be limited to one. He created in me a great thirst for knowledge and wisdom, a love and concern for other people and the beginning of a great faith in God. His faith remained steadfast despite all the adversities that life saw fit to hand him.

HOSKINS HISTORY

Written by: John Hoskins

Grandfather Truman L. Hoskins was born Dec. 19, 1874, in Stearn County, Minn. in a homesteader's cabin during a pre-Christmas snowstorm.

His father, Ezariah Hoskins, was born in the old town of Denmark, now submerged by Lake Vermilion, while his mother, Lucretia Fugate Hoskins, was a native of Kentucky.

The family undertook to homestead a place near Fairhaven, Minn. After a losing fight against winter blizzards, summer drought, wolves and grasshoppers, they sold out to relatives and returned to the vicinity of Potomac. (Indian Mound) He was then ten years of age.

Later they traveled to the South and settled near Tullahoma, Tenn., but this venture also was unsuccessful. They started northward by flat boat to Vincennes, Ind., and from there brought their belongings back to the Danville area by horse and wagon.

Grandad Truman L. Hoskins married Carrie Olive Brown July 4, 1900. They had 12 children, six of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Hoskins died Jan. 3, 1950, and one daughter, Mrs. Dora Spain, preceded her in death by six months. Hoskins was married Oct. 4, 1954, at the age of 80, to Mrs. Nancy Layton of Potomac. His living descendants are: Harry (Pence, Indiana), 10 children, 40 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren; Jessie (Hoopeston), no descendants; Mrs. Hulda Spain Jarman (Niles, Michigan), 12 children, several grandchildren and great grandchildren; and Mrs. Alberta Sidwell Porter (Danville, Ill.), 3 children and several grandchildren.

On my Grandfather's 85th birthday he had 105 descendants. He was retired from farming and spent most of his life in the Potomac and Danville areas. He worked awhile for the Danville Street Railway Co. at the time when the switch was being made from the old horse cars to the electric.

My father Harry W. Hoskins, now 69, married Eva V. May of Potomac in 1926. They had 10 children. Eva passed away September, 1963. Harry was married to Pauline Markley on December 31, 1964.

His living children are John Truman, Harry Harvey, Richard Lee, Gordon Robert, Eva Wanetta Adam Everett, Albert Lee, Lester Dale, Harold Eugene, and Esther Virginia. Harry lived most of his life around Potomac, and worked for Jesse Stone as a carpenter in his younger years. His sons served in the armed forces— Navy, Marines, Army, War II, Korean and Vietnam.

We lived in the old Goodwine park east of Potomac 1 mile when I was 6 years old. The State put

in the new road between Potomac and Route 1. They used mules to haul dirt and Big Mac trucks chain driven to haul cement. The mules were kept in a lot across the street from Bill Downing's (Jesse Stone's).

I walked to school from the park. We moved to Blue Grass a couple of years later. That year at Christmas time the school burnt down. There was no telephone or way to get help. My Dad shot 3 times in the air and it brought help from all directions, but it still burnt to the ground. We moved to the farm March 1, 1935, the Doug Alexander farm south of Potomac 1 mile, where the gravel pitt is now. My brother Harry and I started to school and on the way home one night we had a snowball fight. He got wet and cold and he lay down and would not walk. He said to me, "Just let me die and I'll not have to walk anymore." I whipped him to make him go, but that didn't help any so I had to carry him home about 1 mile. After that Dad let us drive the race mare hitched to an old buggy. (He had traded a neighbor out of 1 sow pig for a buggy.) Boy, did we go to school then. We picked up the Davis kids and had horse races. We sure came up in respect to the other kids. One fall we put the corn in shocks and carried it on the hillside so we could feed the livestock that winter. The spring rain came and it took the corn down the river so Dad went broke and couldn't feed the stock and we had to sell the farm.

He started carpenter work then and worked over at the base and also drove the school bus. His and Mom's dream came true— some land of their own. Boy, we lived— 3 acres of brush and mosquitoes! We cleared a garden spot and fenced the rest. We picked berries (wild strawberries, raspberries, blackberries), we fished, and hunted squirrel and rabbit. There were mushrooms (we lived off the fat of the land!) and sassafras tea (I drank gallons)! Harvey Pollitt made sorgam and we helped him strip the leaves of the cane for some sypir, and in the spring we made maple syrup. I could always see my mom's eyes sparkle when I'd bring her a handful of sweet William, as it was her favorite.

We moved back to town about 1942 in my Grandfather May's house on May Street just north of the railroad. There we country boys went wild. Mom and Dad had to take us back to the woods so they bought 40 acres and this is what Mom called, "Hills of Hawbuck," just west of Jamesburg 2½ mile at the Selsor Ford, end of the road. We had our own swimming hole, our own everything— berries and

hunting! About this time I joined the Navy. I didn't miss too much of my home life because my mother was a school teacher before she married. She could put more on paper than most people can talk. She only told me the happy things that happened or the funny ones— about how the cow knocked out Harry's front tooth, or maybe Bill stepped on a nail or Bill ran a skunk across the picnic blanket down by the river at the old turtle tree.

But back to history. I guess remaining in history. Time passes us by, and now I am a grandfather. We have a redheaded granddaughter and a grandson with big brown eyes. And now comes the time in my life to pass on my knowledge of fishing and hunting and finding mushrooms to my grandchildren. All the knowledge that they will absorb, or that I can make interesting enough for them to want to learn, has taken me 50 years to learn.



Civil Veterans



CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS

The home where this picture was taken belonged to Charles La Grange and stood where T & J gas station is today. Reading from your left to right, the soldiers in the front row are: William McMurtry, Charles Ingersoll, Giles Gordon, Frank

Selsor, J.W. Henderson and Charles La Grange.

Back row: Raul Sides, Mac Coil, Alec Helvie, William Douglas, Ambrose Judy and John Kirkhart. The last man is not known.

CIVIL WAR PICTURE

When the Boys in Blue came limping back from the Southland in 1865, there were but fifteen towns and settlements of size in Vermilion, and their listing makes strange reading today. Let the roll be called: Blue Grass, Marysville, Rossville, Myersville, Higginsville, Newtown, Denmark, Danville, Tilton, Illiana, Catlin, Fairmount,

Chillicothe, Ridgefarm, and Georgetown. Of these, Marysville is now Potomac, and Chillicothe after a span of life as Old Dallas, has ended as the town of Indianola. Blue Grass, Myersville, Higginsville and Newtown now are all memories. But with the desires of the community life there have come into active existence with other towns and villages.

CIVIL WAR VETERANS

George H. Hamilton
Joseph Allen
D. M. Moreland
James Henderson
John Fox
Robert C. Golliday
J. S. Anderson
Ambrose Judy
Myrick Coil
Howell Davis
Robert Landis
Ernest Schreiner
J. R. Kirkhart
Henry Searle
B. D. Wise
John Alexander
C. R. Littler
John Littler
L. Shanks
Odom Coake
Cyrus Kirby
Jacob Poulson
Joseph McConnell
Micheal Guthrie
Charles LaGrange
W. C. Galiday

T. W. English
William McMurtrey
Unknown Soldier
Martin Landis
John Nesbitt
James Stokes
William McMahon
William S. Douglas
William Payne
Seth Fairchild
George A. May
Samuel Flannagan
T. M. Saunders
Sam Smithers
Harvey Griffin
A. W. Ingersoll
Peter Lawrence
J. W. Cossairt
Alexander Helvie

Spanish-American Veterans
John Cooper
William Wyneau

Golden Years

CORA G. RICE

Cora Goodwine Rice was born Dec. 31, 1885, 1 mile East of Potomac, Illinois. She is the daughter of John and Alice Goodwine. She attended the Potomac Public Schools and graduated from high school.

She entered the banking profession, and was employed by her father (Banker) who founded the Goodwine State Bank. She became associated with her brother, John and Ulysses Goodwine who were also with their father in the bank at that time.

She married Albert Rice who was at the time of their marriage associated with the Potomac National Bank, founded by Dr. L. C. Messner. With the consolidation of the Potomac National Bank and the Goodwine State Bank, she and her husband worked together in the banking business for a long number of years.

She has 1 son, Gordon A. Rice, 3 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Her husband Albert passed away on Jan. 10, 1964. She continued as President of Goodwine State Bank until her retirement in 1972. She now resides at the Danville Care Nursing Home, Danville, Illinois.



Cora G. Rice

BERYL BUTZ



Beryl M. Osborn Butz was born February 12, 1885, the daughter of Fred and Lou Ella Barkman Osborn on a farm west of Collison. She attended schools at Bixby, Collison and Danville High School.

She met Homer E. Butz, and they were married on February 23, 1905, and from this union were 2 sons—Edmund of Elgin, Illinois, and Frederick who still resides here in Potomac. Edmund married Lucille Wolf and they have 1 daughter, Sandra Kay.

Homer E. Butz, her husband, passed away at an early age on December 27, 1935. Beryl worked at the Grab-It-Here grocery in Potomac and at Chanute Field.

Beryl enjoys her flowers, gardening and has a large strawberry patch. She still gets out every day at the age of 91. She cleans her flower beds and walks to town for her daily shopping.

Beryl misses her old friends to visit and chat with. Her motto is to stay busy and keep a-moving and you'll stay young at heart.

She has been a member of the Artesia Chapter for 63 years, a member of the Methodist Church and a pastmatron.

FANNIE JOSPHINE HEFFERAN GOODWINE

Fannie Josphine Hefferan Goodwine was born in Potomac, October 26, 1885, daughter of Michael and Rebecca Steely Hefferan. She was 1 of 12 children. She is the oldest and only one living in her family that is left.

She met Fredrick M. Goodwine, and they were married on May 3, 1903. Fannie and Fred raised 5 children: Louise, Alice, Marion, Frank and Dale (1 deceased). Fannie has 16 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren and 10 great great grandchildren.

In Fannie's early married life they lived on Father Goodwine's farm. She shucked many an ear of corn, milked cows, and raised a large garden. She worked in the canning factory at Rossville and helped cook in the restaurant that Hobert and Louise had here in Potomac.

Fannie spoke about her boyfriends and their fast-spirited horses and how she helped Dr. Ransom and Dr. Cossairt when they delivered babies and how she dressed the babies. Fannie had traveled around the country and seen lots of changes in her life from horse and buggy days to Jets and man going to the moon.

When she was interviewed for this history, she had walked downtown, bought a can of paint, went back home and painted half of her front-porch by noon at the age of 90, mind you.



She is always in a jovial mood and says if you are to keep a-goin' you have to stay busy and keep those wheels a-turning, and don't bog down.

Fred Goodwine, her husband, passed away at the age of 86, in 1963.

Fannie still resides at her home here in Potomac where she trims her hedge, plants a garden and does her own cooking.

"Grow old along with me,

The best is yet to be."

LAURA SMITH TALBOTT



Laura Smith Talbott was the fifth child born of John R. and Permelia Shumate Smith August 27,

1884, on a farm near Oxford Harbor. She has 3 sisters and 4 brothers. She is the only one left, but has 1 brother Forest Smith who still lives here in Potomac.

She grew up on the farm and attended the country school near her home.

She married Charles B. Talbott Sept. 18, 1901. Of this union 2 children were born, the son deceased and daughter Hattie Talbott Daniels survives and lives in Danville, Illinois. Her husband Charles passed away at the age of 81 on October 3, 1959.

They lived on the farm north of town until 1935 when they came to town and lived on Grant Street, the first and oldest street in the village.

Laura's hobbies were raising a garden and flowers. She enjoyed the neighborhood children coming to visit with her as she told them stories of long ago. Laura says she has seen a heap of changes in her time, but guessed she was hearty and tough cause the time for her wasn't set as yet.

Laura now resides at the International Nursing Home in Danville, Illinois.

ARTESIAN WELLS

The distinctive feature of the town of Potomac is the Artesian Wells. Charles LaGrange, a Civil War veteran informs us that the first flowing wells were shallow holes from which water was dipped for domestic purposes. This was called "slue" water. These holes were deepened if the water ran low. Camp meetings were held southwest of town to be near water which flowed from a sycamore tree. Years ago when drilling for oil on the farm of the late John Goodwine, in 8-inch vein of water was struck and water was thrown 32 feet in the air. The force was so great that it would lift a log chain or a 7 pound stone several feet. Fearing the earth would cave in around it, a red elm piling was driven into the casing by a pile driver from Rossville. The force was so strong that water penetrated the pores of the tree. People drove miles to see this strange sight. Zacharia Putnam attached a water wheel to his well, which was located on his farm (the farm of the late Carl Duncan), and used this power for churning and cheese making. The village streets were watered from a well on the Redman property. A well drilled by R. Knott on the Harmon Copeland farm had enough gas

to burn while the water flowed. Due to the great number of wells, the largest one in town was located on the Charles Edenburn property. This well flowed 2 3-inch pipes full until it was slowed down because it was causing wells on higher ground to flow slower. These wells flow continuously the year round from a depth of 55 to 180 feet. Some flow as much as 2,000 barrels in 24 hours. The water has a slight mineral taste. Wells in town contain sulphate iron, and 1 nearby contains magnesia. In most instances the water which has a temperature of 44 degrees flows into small tanks which are used as natural refrigerators. Some are inside the houses. Most of the tanks have covers or lids, although left open in the severest of weather, the water never freezes. Hydraulic rams were used to force the water up hills into the homes. Wells can be seen flowing in the middle of the creek south of town. The creek is never dry as the artesian wells drain into it. In the olden days, carpet rags were often dyed to a beautiful copper by soaking them in a tank of flowing artesian water for a week and the color was set by drying them in the sun.

WELLS THAT ARE STILL RUNNING

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. D. A. Arthion | 20. Don Ray |
| 2. George Stengel | 21. Jack Taylor |
| 3. Norval Burke | 22. Virginia Borror |
| 4. Tom Downing | 23. Don Doran |
| 5. Gary Session | 24. Earl Mourer |
| 6. David Cessna | 25. Roy Talbott |
| 7. Willie Carter - 2 | 26. Lee Price - 2 |
| 8. Leslie Ingram | 27. Roy Fulk |
| 9. West Park - 2 | 28. B. J. Denham |
| 10. Robert Stahl | 29. Clarince Brunson |
| 11. Larry Lawless | 30. Lyle Markwalder |
| 12. Robert Bezely | 31. Mary Beiderman |
| 13. Harry Voss | 32. Marion Valetine |
| 14. Wm. J. D. Middleton | 33. Dave Spain |
| 15. Larry Hutton - 2 | 34. Wayne Goodwine |
| 16. Scott Armantrout | 35. Gordon Rice |
| 17. Otto Divan | 36. David Malcolmson |
| 18. Ronald Willard | 37. Curtis Alexander |
| 19. Jim Behimer | 38. Seymour Farm - 3 |

Centennial Farms & Homes



THE JOHN C. ALEXANDER FARM

Well ahead of the Civil War, John C. Alexander, a southerner, migrated to the North. He settled in the area of the present Alexander farm in the late 1840's. He had accumulated considerable acreage before his death in 1862. He was a young man at his death and very little is known of his early life.

His son S. A. D. (Doug) Alexander became the 2nd generation owner. Born in 1858, he was only a child when his father died. In 1879, he married Nelle Golliday and moved on the farm. He reared 3 sons and 5 daughters, and remained on the farm until his retirement in 1914.

Jesse Alexander became the 3rd generation owner. He was married to Mary Selsor in 1916.

She was a teacher in the Middlefork school. From this marriage there was 1 daughter and 4 sons. Jesse operated the farm till the early 1950's at which time he turned the operation over to his youngest son. He made his home there with his son until his death in 1966.

Upon Jesse's death in 1966, the farm went to the 4 sons who are the present owners and the 4th generation.

Jay W. lives on the homestead and operates the farm. He is single and is an avid sports fan.

Robert G. has been in the San Francisco area in California since the end of World War II. He has 2 daughters and 1 son. His older daughter is a special education teacher, the second daughter has a

degree in nursing, and the only son is in the Navy. Robert is in road construction. Raymond V. lives about a mile away from the homeplace. Ray has a stepson Michael E. Schull. His own son Douglas is the 5th generation of Alexanders in the line of inheritance.

D. E. (Gene) lives in Urbana, Illinois. Dr. Alexander is a professor at the University of Illinois where he has been on the faculty since 1947. He is a geneticist in the department of agronomy. Dr. Alexander has twice been recognized as an outstanding instructor in the College of Agriculture. In 1971, Dr. Alexander became the first American named to the Russian All Union Academy of Science which includes only 22 foreigners among its 153 members. This represents the highest honor bestowed on an agricultural scientist by the U.S.S.R. Dr. Alexander's work is of special interest to the U.S.S.R. because he breeds corn to increase oil content and improve protein quality.

The original home on the farm was torn down

in 1967, and the only remaining building of past generation remaining is the barn.

The original land was swamp and only the high ground was farmed. Of special note—in the late 1940's, foundation seed corn was produced on the farm and in turn was used to produce double-cross seed corn which was used for commercial purpose.

In the middle 1960's a few acres of sunflower seeds were grown from seed that Dr. Alexander had brought back from Russia.

In the late 1960's several acres of high oil content corn was produced. In 1961, the Alexanders installed one of the first artificial grain-drying facilities in this area.

There are 2 English walnut trees on the homestead. One is a seedling which does not produce and the other is a grafted tree—an English walnut grafted on a black walnut stump. This tree in good bearing years will produce 1 to 1½ bushels.



ROBERT HAMILTON FARM AT COLLISON

My Great Grandfather, Absalom Collison, came to Vermilion County, Illinois in about 1828. He was born in 1805 in West Virginia and was the son of Alexander and Rebecca (Kellison) Collison. He settled on a 40-acre tract of land near the Middlefork River northwest of Collison. Later he and his sons started acquiring land on the prairie.

Our farm at Collison was acquired from several parcels at different times. In 1844, Absalom Collison, got a 40-acre tract from the government near the buildings where Earl Tucker now lives a half mile north of Collison. In 1849 and 1850 he bought 240 acres more from several owners at a

cost of about \$2.00 per acre.

At Absalom's death in October, 1853, this land went to his son, Thomas F. Collison. Thomas purchased the remainder of the present farm in 1882 and 1887 at a cost of about \$34.00 per acre.

At Thomas Collison's death in 1919 this farm was inherited by his daughters, Lizzie Crays and Stella Crays.

In 1920, my grandfather, Samuel Collison, bought this farm from Lizzie and Stella Collison Crays. In 1931, my mother, Mae M. Collison Hamilton inherited this farm and I bought it from my mother in 1965.



THE WILLIAM H. DUNCAN FARM

William H. Duncan purchased a farm from Elon Sperry on Feb. 21, 1884. The abstract shows that William paid \$11,700 for one 160 acre tract of farm. Later he sold the farm to Carl F. Duncan in 1920 for \$16,000. Melvin K. Duncan inherited the farm from his mother's estate in 1958. This

is a third generation farm.

The original house on the farm burned in 1912, and was replaced in 1913. Jesse Stone was the builder of the new house, which is still used as the home of Melvin and his wife Margaret.



THE JOHN JUDY FARM

John Judy bought the Judy family farm from Jesse and Mary Partlow June 6, 1853, at a cost of \$5.45 an acre. Partlow had originally paid \$1.25 when he purchased the land. The farm was passed from John to his son George and from him to his brother Charles. George was never married. Charles was killed in a tractor accident in 1942. This coincides with the depression and the family farm was heavily mortgaged. Lloyd, Charles' son, managed to redeem the farm so that today—123 years later—it still remains in the Judy name.

Many changes have occurred in the century passed. Lloyd remembers his father Charles telling of the covered wagons passing with signs saying, "Kansas or Bust" and then coming back East saying "Busted."

An 11-room house was built on the farm in 1876 at a cost of \$2,000. Lloyd and his wife Ruthal still live in that house today.

In the early years only the higher land on the farm was cultivated because of poor drainage. Today the entire farm is put into grain crop.

The Havana, Rantoul and Eastern Railroad went through the farm in 1876. John Judy sold the railroad land needed to cross his farm for the price of \$1.00. The \$1.00 charge was only to make it legal. The railroad was built with a 3-foot narrow gauge track and owned 2 locomotives.



John Judy and Emma Judy, his wife. This picture was taken on Monday, August 1, 1904, at their home two miles west of Potomac.

In 1920, the narrow pavement cut the farm into going east and west. This was the main road at that time. The farm was again cut into in 1933 when Route 136 was built. Electricity ran through the farm in 1929. Midwestern Gas Transmission Company laid a pipeline through the farm in 1959.

A tornado hit the farm in 1944 destroying 8 buildings and laying the windmill across the cellar door. For years this was the only windmill between Potomac and Armstrong and was a kind of landmark.

Some of the more interesting articles that remain on the family farm are: a branding iron (the letter "J") used on John Judy's cattle, the wagon bows that covered the wagon bringing the pioneer Judy family here from West Virginia, saddle bags for horses, several old guns including a muzzle loader with the powder horn and pouch. John Judy used a 2-row check planter with a rope-check. Lloyd still has parts of that planter.

THE MONTGOMERY CENTENNIAL FARM

The Montgomery Centennial Farm located 5 miles southeast of Potomac, just east of the village of Jamesburg, is owned by Alva H. Montgomery, Jr., the sixth generation to own this farm since it was entered from the United States Government in 1928.

The original 80 acres of this farm has been in the related family since it was entered from the United States Government on October 25, 1828, during the administration of President John Quincy Adams, by Elza and Nancy Timmons.

The Timmons sold this 80 acres to their nephew, Erastus Sperry died on or about May 14, 1852, leaving his widow Ruth and 3 young children—a son Wallis and 2 daughters, Amanda and Arminda, as survivors. Daughter Amanda married Samuel D. Deamude on December 3, 1868, and

this farm was transferred to them from her father's estate on July 2, 1872.

A daughter, Ella was born to the Deamude's on December 7, 1873. She married Frank Montgomery on December 1891. The Deamude's transferred possession to their daughter on December 2, 1924, and her son, Alva H. Montgomery, Sr. assumed management of it until her death on September 26, 1936, at which time ownership went to him.

Alva H. Montgomery, Sr. maintained an active interest in this farm until his death on January 2, 1975, although ownership passed to his son, Alva H. Montgomery, Jr. in 1970.

This farm is now operated by Alva H. Montgomery, Jr. as a part of a grain and hog farm, where a Purebred Hampshire herd is maintained.

THE BURD CENTENNIAL FARM

William F. Burd was discharged from the Union Army following the Civil War, on June 9, 1865.

Records show that in 1867 he purchased from Nelson Chenoweth, a tract of land about 1 mile east of Armstrong, Illinois, consisting of 61 acres, described as 61 acres off the west side of the S.E. ¼ section of section 2, twp. 21N. Range 14 west.

This tract of land has remained in the Burd family ever since.

In 1905, Mary E. Burd bought from William Smith, 78 acres joining the original farm on the west.

In 1944, after the death of Mary E. Burd, wife of William F. Burd, a son, Lester Burd, became the owner of the farm now consisting of 139

acres, more or less.

In 1964, Lester and Edna Wernigk Burd, purchased 98 acres from the estate of Fred Wernigk, deceased.

This 98 acres joined the original Burd farm of 61 acres on the east, thus making a farming unit of 237 acres, more or less.

In 1924, a house and other buildings were erected on this farm. Edna and Lester Burd have lived here ever since.

In 1952, a second house was erected in which a son, Mason, and his family reside. So passes the farm from generation to generation.

--Lester M. Burd



THE LEONARD HOMESTEAD

The home where Charles and Emma Alice Leonard now live has been in the Leonard possession since 1862. According to a Prairie Farmers Reliable Directory, published in 1918, the farm was called, "Riverside Stock Farm."

On Dec. 24, 1862, William J. Leonard purchased the farm from John Smith.

In 1866, Wm. J. Leonard died and his son James D. Leonard bought out the other heirs.

In 1885, a tornado struck the area destroying all the buildings, leaving only a brick well house, which was left standing until it was torn down in 1975. The house was rebuilt by Berry Leonard, brother of the owner (James). James Leonard died in 1913. In 1914, his son William C. Leonard (grandfather of Charles) purchased the farm. Later

William Leonard and Sadie his wife moved to Henning, Illinois.

Families of Newt Henderson and Homer Wilson lived here some time during 1913 and 1923. In 1923, Stanley and Dora Leonard and children Dorothy (now Mrs. Ray Jungerich) and Charles moved to the farm.

In 1923, Wm. C. Leonard passed away and his wife Sadie passed away in 1942.

Stanley Leonard then became the owner and in 1947 he and his wife Dora moved to Rossville, Illinois and Charles and Emma Alice Leonard and sons Richard (Dick) and Jerry moved to the farm.

Since the death of Stanley Leonard in 1967, and Dora his wife in 1973, Charles (their son) is the present owner.

Messner & Son.

Hattens - Fascinators - Groceries - Boots.

All departments full and complete at way down prices

The William E. Stone residence was built around 1891, and was the Stone residence until 1936. This home was later damaged by fire, and the home of Vernon McGuffee is now at this location



The John J. Duncan residence located on West State Street, is now the home of Curtis Sollars. John Duncan was the father of Fred Duncan.

The John Moss residence, located at the north edge of Potomac, has been remodeled and is now known as the Lanham Mortuary.



Settlers of Potomac

Frank Golliday
 Harry Perry
 John Thompson
 Johnson Miles
 Robert Jameson
 Donald Farnsworth
 Roy Lowe
 Loren Thing
 T. E. Davis
 Charles Weiser
 Frank McCormick
 George J. Pettit
 John Musser
 Everett Ellis
 B. C. Voss
 J. C. Smith
 William Blackford
 John Howard
 Zeb Wise
 William Nixon
 Jesse Nixon
 Rush Anderson
 Roy Felmley
 Cloyd Talbott
 Samuel Stephens
 Jacob E. Layton
 S. A. D. Alexander
 James Hickman
 Henry Coil
 Ed Cannon
 William LaBounty
 Douglas Alexander
 Butler Magruder
 Joe Wallace
 Arch Franklin
 Harry Bird
 Elmer Cannon
 Ben Behimer
 Walter Gossett
 A. H. Morrison
 John Morrison
 George Shoemaker
 Ira Blackford
 Frank Sollars
 Russell Duncan
 Arthur Edenburn
 Charles Edenburn
 George Turner
 Clyde Buckingham
 Louis Clem
 Benjamin Clemmons

W. G. Judy
 Mance Abernathy
 Frank Nelson
 Palmer Smith
 Corwin Linfoot
 Noble Taylor
 Jack Taylor
 Elmer Layton
 Ralph Young
 William Cook
 Charles Talbott
 J. W. VanNess
 Hicks VanNatta
 Earl Jeakins
 Paul Saunders
 Arch Furrow
 Thomas Young
 James Davis
 John Coon
 A. L. Griffin
 W. L. Jameson
 Olen Judy
 Elmer Stucker
 Homer Butz
 Henry Baker
 Lee Musser
 Bruce Harper
 Floyd Allen
 Walter Cooper
 John Selsor
 George Young
 J. D. Clementz
 Fred Spain
 Verne Tresner
 Charles Alexander
 Zack Huffman
 Elmer Weller
 William Moyer
 James Wallace
 George B. Goetschuis
 Harry Lincoln
 Everett Wilson
 T. O. Magruder
 Marion Grimes
 Richard Knott
 Albert Sperry
 Frank Henry
 Abraham Landis
 Landis Hall
 James Taylor
 Carl Talbott

Wilber Goodwine
 Wayne Goodwine
 Ernest Dryer
 Merton Swisher
 Harry Doran
 Grant Judy
 George Borror
 Lloyd Judy
 Earl Pierce
 Charles Pierce
 Ray Remole
 Joseph Smith
 Clarence Taylor
 Homer Davis
 Dorsey McBroom
 Harry Hoskins
 James Redman
 Cell Reeves
 Dan Reeves
 Walter Perry
 Joe Reeves
 Dee Haskett
 Bill Hines
 Homer Cheney
 Henry Whorall
 Marion Goodwine
 Pete Lawrence
 Roy Brillhart
 Ben Wise
 Godfrey Burkhart
 John Turpener
 George Weiser
 Walt Courtney
 Sam Deamude
 Amos Doan
 Pete Esworthy
 Clyde Felemey
 John Fowler
 Jim Rice
 Lonnie Shanks
 Frank Spain
 Berry Leonard
 Fred Goodwine
 Fred Schnelle
 George Satterfield
 Ira Blackford
 Rev. James Livingston
 Clifford Reeves
 Burt Hall
 Ernest Duncan
 John Kelley

John Musser
 Floyd Allen
 Carl Stahl
 Frank Baker
 Frank Hall
 Frank Spain
 Sherm Littler
 Ed Lewman
 John Lewman
 Benton Jolley
 Merrill Johnson
 John Haskett
 Tom Humphrey
 Tom Nichols
 Ira Larkin
 William Selsor
 Bill Morris
 Lee Wickman
 Dutch Tommy
 Pick Cardiff
 Doc Synder
 Lee Price
 Ora Alexander
 George Hooker
 Alva Knerr
 Louis Knerr
 Daniel Underwood
 Ronald Newman
 Beard McCollister
 Joe McCollister
 Willis Auten
 James Parsons
 Jettie J. Bressler
 Fred Ermentrout
 Curtis Sollars
 William Beaver
 Frank O'Connell
 W. W. Wright
 Walter Ennis
 Elmer D. VanNess
 D. S. Cossairt
 John Cossairt
 John Layton
 George Young
 Fred Farnsworth, Sr.
 Forest McGowan
 Winnie Jolley
 Henry McDaniels
 John Scott
 John Howard
 Elmer Roy Kelly

Hiram Watson
Myrick Coil
A. B. Duncan
Robert Lindsey
Lowell Creighton
Charles Hoshauer
Lewis Malone
Fred Osborn
Dan Reardon
Bert Pyke
Francis Shain
Edward Jester
Matt Kinney
William Camp
William Hines
John Poulson
W. Elmer Hobbs
Presley Shaw
Henry Williams
Frank Andrews
M. Max St. John
Louis Alexander
George Wyant
George W. Leonard

Cliff Reynolds
Guy Roberts
Otto Hulse
C. M. Dodson
Wilber Hurley
Fred Powell
Cornelius Dodson
Newton West
Issac Hornbeck
Morris Goetschius
John Hines
Clinton Crouch
Charles Ingersoll
Ernest Woods
William Tomlin
Charles Ellis
Bert Perry
Dale Huffman
Gabriel Burkhart
William Rice
Leland Jameson
Vernon Jameson
Guy Seymour
George Cook

James Bowman
Samuel Aldridge
Marion Hall Paul Burrough
Jesse Spain
Merton Swisher
Albert Waldron
Chester Atchison
Don Crawford
Charles F. Hoth
Charles Seymour
Albert H. Ingersoll
Edward Hunt
Ray West
Roy E. Talbott
Ray Talbott
Walter Talbott
Melvin Duncan
Mason Duncan
Kenneth Willard
Curry Voss
D. A. Arthion
Kenneth Keen
Brice Ellett

Haven Sheets
Curtis Alexander
Wilbur Howell
Chelsa Howell
Frank Waugh
William Sager
George Waugh
Samuel Possee
Nathan J. Lewis
Carl Stuckey
William Wilson
William Kelly
Raleigh H. Farnsworth
Fred McDonald
Joe Cannon
Bert Selsor
Evers Landis
Lee Adams
Edward J. Lawrence
Egbert Ferrill
Jesse Alexander
Harry Falconer
Cova Holt

This poem was found in the papers of John Parker Scott, after he passed away in December 1943, at the age of 82.

PLEASE PASS THE ROSES

"When I quit this mortal shore,
And mosey round the world no more,
Don't weep, don't sigh, don't sob;
I may have struck a better job.
Don't go and buy a large bouquet
For which you'll find it hard to pay.
Don't mope around and feel all blue,
I may be better off than you.
Don't tell the folks I was a saint
Or any old thing that I ain't;
I you have jam like that to spread,
Please hand it out before I'm dead.
If you have roses, bless your soul,
Just pin one in my buttonhole
While I'm alive and well today.
Don't wait until I've gone away."

Author Unknown



Potomac's Businesses



Street Scene

CURTIS BARBER SHOP

According to the abstract of the shop, this land was first bought from the United States Government by Isaac Haughom June 6, 1834. It was then sold to Francis Morton, to John Bailey, to Robert Marshall, to John Smith, and 1867 to David Partlow and his wife Sarah. Next it was sold to Herman Biedermann, June 19, 1876, who came here from Germany. He died March 18, 1937, at 90 years of age. His daughter Mary Biedermann sold it to Ernest and Sadie Woods who had it until Sept. 19, 1958, when Ellis and Mildred Curtis purchased and still own the shop.

Tine, as everyone knows, is the third generation in his family to be a barber. His grandfather, father, and 2 uncles were barbers in the surrounding community of Potomac. One gentleman told me not too long ago that all 3 generations had cut his hair, starting when he was a small boy of 3.

Would you believe at one time there were 3 barber shops in Potomac at one time! These were Fred Rice, Elmer Jameson (now the Curtis shop) and Jess Vanness. This was back in the 30's.

Tine is busy shaping hair, giving haircuts and driving a truck besides.



Tiny Curtis



Postoffice

POTOMAC LIBRARY

In 1939, Potomac wanted to have a public library. The Home Bureau made a study of the possibilities, and the town board agreed to allow them to use a part of the city building. Neva Littlepage made a trip to Springfield, Illinois to learn the necessary procedure in setting up a library. She appointed Leda Stephens as president; Nell Taylor, Myrtle Anderson and Estella Moreland as Library Trustees.

The Library opened on September 8, 1939, and Ina Taylor was selected to be the librarian. She was paid by W. P. A. funds from the state. The State Library at Springfield furnished some of the books, many others came from the Danville Library and many others were donated.

Mabel Lowe was librarian from 1943 to 1946, when Myrtle Anderson was elected librarian. She held the position of librarian for 22 years, retiring in 1968.

The library is supported by the residents of the community. It has over 5,000 volumes and there are 260 borrowers. The library joined the Lincoln Trails Libraries System in 1971, and the residents are able to obtain many services.

Clarabelle Boggess was elected librarian in 1968, and is now serving in that capacity.

The Board of Trustees are:

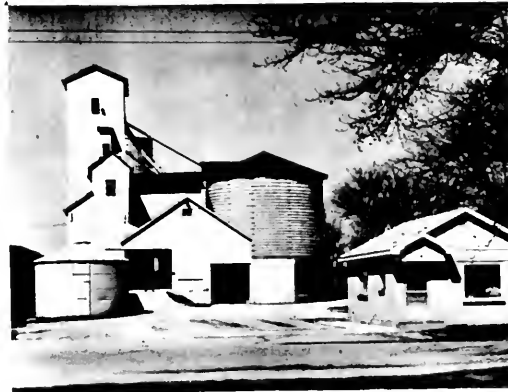
Lilah Voss, president; Marylyn Hoshauer, treasurer; Nelle Bennett; Dale Goempler; Margaret Endsly and Jewell Clements.

POTOMAC LOCKER

Paul Burroughs bought the locker late in 1948 from Forsythe Brothers, and they had just taken it over from Leo Wahls from Homer, Illinois.

The Slaughter House was built in 1951.

The store was purchased from Jim Holden (Bob and Wilma Taylor had owned it prior to Mr. Holden) in 1963. At that time the opening between the store and the locker was made, and the two businesses became one.



Elevator



Lincoln Trail bookmobile comes to town along with a furry animal to attract the kids!

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

Building & Loan Association. Early in the year 1889, when the Village of Potomac was a teenager—13, to be exact, a group of men of the village talked it over, and decided to start a Building & Loan Association. A State Charter was obtained and the Potomac Building & Loan was born.

It was set up on a basis of service to the Ordinary people. Many saved money for education of their children. Many young people saved their own money for college. Many saved for old age and unexpected expenses. Some saved for homes they wished to buy.

Then great numbers of people borrowed money to buy homes. Others to remodel, etc. The foresight of this group of men was remarkable. The business they started has continued longer than any other ever started in this village. It was sound. It stood the test of 2 depressions (the '90's and the '30's); it was there in the Boom and Bust, through wars and peace. The Board of Directors, who over the years were many different persons, kept the business solvent. No one ever lost a penny of their investments. The crash of '29 was survived.

How can you sell that kind of business? Only

one way: pass a law that puts too much on it. This was done June 30, 1973. Although the reserves were enough, because others in other towns failed, the state passed a law requiring Federal Deposit Insurance. The board quickly explored this and found that to do this you would need to have at least \$1,000,000 in assets. With us that was impossible, so a group of directors went to Springfield to talk it over with the people at the Savings & Loan Commissioner's office as to what we could do. It was found that there were only about 2 things that could be done: 1. Sell our mortgages to someone else and close up shop; 2. Sell our business to someone else who would be willing to keep a facility in Potomac.

The board decided that the second alternative was the best for all concerned. So, the business has been sold to Unity Savings Association of Chicago, Illinois. Unity is an over \$300,000,000 association. They are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Money deposited with them is as safe as in other financial institutions in the U. S. The office in Potomac is open and ready to do business.

MORRIS DRUG STORE

In the summer of 1942, on July 13, Clark Morris purchased the Alexander Drug Store from Charlie Alexander as a family project to be owned and operated by himself, his wife and 2 daughters.

The Morris Family came to Potomac from Marshall, Illinois where Mr. Morris also managed a drug-store.

Clark Morris was to own and operate this business for 21 years, through the history-making years of World War II and the Korean conflict.

Mr. Morris sold his place of business in 1963, when he retired to Mr. & Mrs. Ray Fulk. It has since changed hands several times and is now known as the Village Discount Store.



Morris Drug Store



On September 14, 1945, Russell and Kathleen Biggs stored their furniture in Kankakee, climbed in their '39 Ford and motored to Potomac, Illinois to go into business selling Case Farm Machinery. To add to the dismal day of pouring rain were the tears shed by Kathleen all the way to Potomac. The rain continued for 3 weeks! As we passed the Mental Institution in Kankakee, it was questionable as to whether we should leave Russell or not. Having arrived in Potomac, we rented a sleeping room from Mary Reeves in the Buckingham House. We started in the Case Farm Machinery business in the Daniels building which was a part of the Daniels Lumber Yard. Alden May and his father, John May, built the counter and parts bins for us in that building. We operated business from there for a year and a half when Dorsey McBroom bought the Daniels Lumber Yard. Russell then bought a piece of ground west of town on State St. from Clare Young and started to build. Dorsey, being the kind and considerate man that he was, let us stay there in the lumber yard and operate business from there until our building was completed. Trees had to be cut down, and a huge hole, which had been a basement, had to be filled in by a bulldozer. Then the footing was started and the beginning of Biggs Motor Company.

Peachie Wright and Herb Warren laid the brick and the block for the new building. Tanner Jameson and his crew— Carl Stuckey and Winnie Jolley, Harry Bird and his crew— William Bird and French Spain,

did the interior. Peachie Wright, Herb Warren and Sellis Lawless did the concrete work.

In November of 1948, we moved into our new building. Lowell Creighton, Jack Biggs and Vivian Hoth were the first employees in our new building.

A great day in April of 1949 came around noon when Russell signed his Chevrolet contract. He signed it, came straight home and we started to Salina, Tennessee with Dorsey and Ruth McBroom on a fishing trip.

All wasn't fun and sunshine, as Russell became quite ill with a sore throat. After 2 days, we had to start home, but didn't make it. We stopped off at Lake View Hospital in Danville with him. The doctor hospitalized Russell with quinsy. He was there for 3 days and upon his arrival home, he was greeted by our first carrier of Chevrolets. We shall always remember this as one of the greatest thrills of our lives!

July 1, 1949, we moved into our own home purchased from Orville Bottrells. Then in September, 1949, we got our daughter, Sue Ellen. We have always said these 3 things were of the greatest importance for us, and all in the same year— 1949.

Business was growing and we needed more room, so in 1953, we added the back part of the building, which took care of all the shop. Frank Auten with the help of the employees, Nelson Kes-



Biggs' secretary for years—
Grace Stucky

singer, Short LaMar, Ray Wesley, Gene Poyner and Eldon Larkin laid the block and poured the garage floor and put in the drain. George McClellan engineered the roof construction.

The first bookkeeper to work for us was Robert DeNeal. He was with us for 12 years and then left us to become a rural mail carrier. He was replaced by Grace Stuckey who was with us for 15 years. She had to leave us because of failing health, so our next bookkeeper was Anne Duncan.

Eldon Larkin, Herman Ackerman, Eugene Poyner, Ray Wesley, Vernon Brown, Allen Shumate, Ronald Ellett, James Pollitt and George Marrs were all good mechanics and worked on many Chevrolets for us. Gerald Chesnut and Curt Grider, who was with us for 15 years, worked in the Parts Department. Nelson Kessinger and Francis Clements were our salesmen and part-time parts men. Francis was the last salesman to work for Biggs Motor Company. He started working in 1962 and worked for us until his death in 1974. We missed Francis very much as he was our "Detail Man."

Our present employees are Ronald Ellett, Mark Bartlow, Ron Smith and Anne Duncan.

Over a period of years we owe much of the success of Biggs Motor Company to all of these people. They were not only our employees, but also our friends. We have made many friends here in Potomac in the 30 years we have been in business as well as many fine customers for which we are thankful. We had some that were "stinkers" too, but you can't win them all, now can you?

As of this writing we have sold our business to Tom BeVard of Lincoln, Illinois. It became Tom BeVard Chevrolet effective February 1, 1976. It makes us sad to be going out of business, but "time waits for no man" and it's time to turn it over to a younger man. Please be as considerate of Tom as you have been to us. Potomac is a good place to live. We like it here!

Kathaleen & Russell Biggs



ELLIS IMPLEMENT COMPANY

Everett Ellis and Lowell (Cap) Creighton ran the Standard Gas Station in 1939.

In 1940, Everett started a garage and Ford tractor agency in a building where the Potomac Post Office now stands.

In 1945, he moved to the building where the new addition to the Goodwine State Bank is, where he was a dealer of Allis Chalmers, Oliver, New Idea and M & W Gear Implements. He also handled machinery parts, lawn mowers, and did machinery repair work in the back of the building. He operated this business until his death in 1972, when the building was sold to the Goodwine State Bank and torn down for the addition to be built to the bank.



STANDARD OIL

Standard Oil bulk plant was built at the present location in 1929. Davey Allen was the agent at the time the plant was built. Prior to Davey were agents Charlie Weiser and Homer Butz. Davy's first tank wagon was 500 gallon capacity.

At present the plant is owned and operated by Arnold Reynold who has been servicing the area in and around Potomac for the past 17 years. Prior to coming to Potomac, Arnold worked for Standard Oil in Danville, Illinois for 8 years.

He presently operates one 1,700-gallon tank truck and services 120 square miles around Potomac.



Floyd Faulkner on Floyd Davey Allen's 1934 Chevy tank truck for Standard Oil.

PAPERS

The Marysville Independent was established in 1876 by Benn Biddlecome. It was a six-column folio independent in politics and religion, devoted to the news of the day and was well-sustained by the business men.

The Vermilion Patrol—1893—Albert Flanigan
The Potomac Rustler—1897—Clyde C. Buckingham
The Vermilion Patrol—1897—W. T. Flanigan
The Potomac Record—1908—E. A. & C. R. Barnes
The Potomac Record—1910—Alva Leonard
The Potomac Record—1916—O. W. Hickman
The Potomac Record—1917—O. W. Hickman
The Potomac Record—1922—J. H. Patton
The Potomac Record—1926—G. Huntoon
The Potomac Record—1930—Geo. A. Reinhardt
The Potomac Record—1934—N. W. Burke
The Potomac Leader—1941—B. F. Morgan
The Middlefork Journal—1950—Craw & Craw

MIDDLEFORK JOURNAL

For 7 years Potomac was without a weekly paper when Craw & Craw came here and started the Middlefork Journal. The first issue was April 28, 1950, and now in its 27th year. B. F. Morgan was the last publisher in town and he had *The Potomac Leader*. Best wishes from the entire area, Joyce and Lyle Craw!

REMOLE COB SERVICE

As times come and go, so did Remole Cob Industries after about 6 years of operation in Potomac.

Usually a suppressed grin and a polite twinkle in the eye were obvious when Delbert Remole answered inquiries as to what his profession was, and he answered, "the corn cob business."

Despite the indignity that went with it, Delbert began the operation in 1947. His equipment included a hammermill, a tractor and a truck with high sideboards and he had a new bride to take his phone calls.

Corn cobs were hauled from a corn sheller, run through the hammermill and blown into railroads boxcars. Each car would hold from 20 to 40 tons. The ground cobs were then shipped to Quaker Oats Company in Memphis, Tennessee. Other plants were in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Omaha, Nebraska.

Contrary to what some folks might think, the cobs were not used for cereal. Quaker Oats Co. extracted a chemical, called furfural, which was similar to industrial alcohol. About 50% of this was sold to Dupont to be used in the production of nylon. The rest was used for coating airplane wings, cement for light bulbs and coating for the wiring in electric generators. Furfural is an adhesive product that was used to revolutionize the old farm grinder to the high speed grinder of today.

Delbert's fondest hope was that they would start using nylon in truck tires. This came in later years.

Shortly after the beginning of Remole Cob Industries, a storage bin with a 25 car load capacity was built in the northwest part of town and truckers

were hired to haul cobs from corn shellers to the storage. Most farmers were anxious to get rid of this by-product and it was often that more calls were received to haul cobs away than there were trucks available to haul them. Between 400 and 500 boxcar loads were shipped each year.

Because more cobs were available than could be stored in the bin and shipped, a stock pile was started near "Bud" Young's gravel pit, north of Potomac. The pile grew until at one time, it reached 700 tons.

In 1953, the demand from Quaker Oats Co. began to diminish because of the increased production of corn in the south and lower freight rates. It was obvious that the demand would continue to decrease. This caused Delbert to begin to look for brighter horizons and so Remole Cob Industries, like the old soldier, just faded away with the final shipments in 1954.

REMOLE SOIL SERVICE

It was in the spring of 1954 that Delbert Remole announced the birth of a new industry in the Potomac area, and Remole Soil Service began as an infant.

The first services included one truck with a lime spreader bed on it and a small stock of bagged fertilizer. The first fertilizer customers were Delbert's brother, Sonny Remole, and the late Charles Hoshauer. This was all it took to spark the enthusiasm that grew as time went on. The late Burt Hall was hired as the first employee, and Delbert's wife, Frances, was to be the keeper of the telephone and books. Their dining room desk was the office.

That same spring, despite much discouragement from outside, Delbert decided to add a new product that had never been introduced in the area before. Anhydrous Ammonia was becoming well-known for side-dressing corn, but there was a new type of low-pressure liquid nitrogen coming onto the market and because of his desire to add something new, it was added to the Remole fertilizer family. The product was being produced by Allied Chemical Co. and was called Nitrana. It proved very satisfactory and was soon being made by other companies and given their name brand. It became very popular in the fertilizer industry.

Again, Delbert's pioneering spirit began to show as he studied the possibilities of offering liquid fertilizer. With the approval of the Farm Extension Service, in 1955 he became the first fertilizer dealer in Vermilion County to introduce non-pressure mixed liquid fertilizer to go through a corn planter.

Mr. Irvin Story was the first customer and was a satisfied one. It caught on fast. The company's selling slogan was "All you have to lift is the end of a hose."

Enthusiasm was running high as Remole Soil Service began to grow and in 1956 a storage shed was built and the equipment added for mixing dry blend bulk fertilizer. The following year a liquid manufacturing plant was built and the name brand "Rem-Gro" was attached to both the liquid and dry blend fertilizer.

The territory began inching out and by this time an office was set up in the backyard at the Remole residence and the business was incorporated. In 1959, the existing fertilizer facilities at Bismarck, Illinois were purchased from Cleo Dolbee. Storage buildings and tanks were installed and it became an active branch of Remole Soil Service, Inc. The next year the business expanded to the west as storage buildings and tanks and an office were erected at Gifford, Illinois. Later, facilities were established in Fithian, Illinois.

Due to needed space for expansion, ground was purchased just west of Potomac along the railroad tracks and the liquid and dry manufacturing plants were moved to the new site and a new and larger office building was built with a complete state approved soil-testing lab in the basement. A bagging machine was installed for bagging dry fertilizer.

During the spring planting season production at the Potomac plant reached 5,000 tons of liquid Rem-Gro and 10,000 tons of dry Rem-Gro with about 1,000 tons of the latter going into bags. Employment reached 60 a couple of times, however, full-time employment was about 20. The small fleet of trucks operated the year around, spreading limestone and rock phosphate along with the fertilizer. In addition, spring and fall found nitrogen applicators and tanks in the fields and tractor-drawn spreaders were available for the farmer's own use. The company's slogan was, "A Department Store for your Soil Needs."

In 1967, the entire operation of Remole Soil Service, Inc. was sold to Standard Oil Co. of Ohio, and Delbert and Frances Remole retired from the fertilizer industry. The business continued to operate as Remole Soil Service for a year until it was changed to Sohigro, and still is serving the respective areas under this name.

Cash for Eggs.
The Bargain Counter,
John A. Smith.



HISTORY OF THE GOODWINE BANK OF POTOMAC

Teddy Roosevelt was President, the airplane was just beginning to become a reality, a buggy with a gasoline engine to take the place of a horse was being tried for the first time, and the average working week was sixty hours with an average pay of 15¢ an hour, when John Goodwine (Jack, as he was better known), a prominent farmer and land-owner of this community, along with his oldest son, John W. Goodwine, founded and established the Goodwine State Bank of Potomac. Jesse Stone's Lumber and Coal, along with W. H. Copeland & Son funeral parlor are the only businesses in Potomac that are still in operation today as they were in 1903, the year the bank was established.

The bank operated as a private one until a law was passed to the effect that all banks must be either state or national in organization and operation.

John (Jack) Goodwine was president and his

son, John W. Goodwine, was cashier. A few years later Cora Goodwine, now Cora Rice, became bookkeeper. John W. later moved to Fredrick, Oklahoma, and entered the insurance business. Later, when his father purchased additional land in Michigan, he moved there and took up farming. It was while living in Michigan that he became interested in politics and was elected to the Michigan State Legislature on the Republican ticket. In 1935 he, along with several other state senators and representatives, lost his life in a hotel fire in Lansing.

U. S. Goodwine, another son of the founder, joined the bank personnel following his death.

Business was slow at first and some of the present bank officers can recall that there was plenty of time to read the newspapers during banking hours.

October 12, 1920, and application for permission to organize and become a state bank, with a capital stock of \$50,000, a duration of 99 years, to be

located at Potomac, Illinois was filed by John Goodwine, U. S. Goodwine and Cora G. Rice, in the office, of the Auditor of Public Accounts at Springfield. This application for permission to become a state bank was approved October 23, 1920. In 1922, Cora G. Rice discontinued working in the bank, but still had an active interest in its operation. With the death of John Goodwine, May 30, 1924, Cora G. Rice became president; U. S. Goodwine, cashier, and Margaret Goodwine (wife of U. S. Goodwine), assistant cashier.

In 1929, the Potomac National Bank, which was founded by the late Dr. L. C. Messner, with Albert Rice as president and Palmer C. Smith as cashier, decided to liquidate its banking business and join forces with the Goodwine State Bank, thus selling to them certain of its assets. With this new consolidation of forces, U. S. Goodwine became president, Cora G. Rice, vice-president, Albert Rice, cashier, and Palmer C. Smith and Margaret Goodwine, assistant cashiers.

The bank continued to progress and grow, even though it has had set-backs and both large and small decisions to "iron out." With the depression of the early 30's and the election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his declaring a bank moratorium; the Goodwine State Bank suspended operations for a short time, along with many other thousands of banks in the country, some of which were destined never to resume business. President U. S. Goodwine was finally given the OK to re-open and continue giving this community a safe and competent banking service.

In 1948, Gordon A. Rice, son of Albert and Cora A. Rice, joined the bank personnel, and in 1950, Marvin F. Goodwine, son of U. S. Goodwine, President, joined the personnel of the bank.

A complete remodeling operation of the bank building, both inside and out, was started late in 1949, and completed in 1950. A new fire-proof vault for storage of records, along with a new directors' and consultation room, was added on the rear of the building.

In 1954, U. S. Goodwine, president of the bank, passed away and Cora G. Rice became president. In the latter part of the 1950's and the early part of the 1960's another extensive remodeling program was underway. This time a new bookkeeping room was added in the lower level (basement), and new consultation rooms were added on the ground floor.

Albert Rice, cashier, passed away in 1964, and Gordon A. Rice became cashier. Evelyn J. Rice was employed in 1966. Marvin F. Goodwine, vice-president of the bank, passed away in 1967, and Evelyn J. Rice was elected vice-president. In 1972, Cora G. Rice, who was president of the bank at the time, re-

tired and Gordon A. Rice became president.

With the continued financial growth of the Goodwine State Bank, it was decided to purchase the adjoining building, which was the E. F. Ellis Implement dealership (formerly the W. H. Goodwine Garage, which was one of the first Ford dealerships in the country, starting in 1913). This building was razed and a new building was constructed and joined with the original building, thus giving the bank twice the floor space. This construction was completed in 1975. The bank has remained at its present location during the 73 years of business.

The present stockholders, directors, officers, and employees of Goodwine State Bank are:

Stockholders:

Lois Andrews, Frank Andrews, June Goodwine, Evelyn J. Rice, Gordon A. Rice, Stephen G. Rice, Dr. Weldon G. Sheets, John Goodwine, Doug Goodwine, Dean Andrews, Gilbert Goodwine, Gertrude Goodwine, and Dan Rice.

Directors:

Lois Andrews, Frank Andrews, June E. Goodwine, Evelyn J. Rice, Gordon A. Rice, Stephen G. Rice, and Dr. Weldon G. Sheets.

Officers:

Gordon A. Rice, President; Dan Rice, Vice President; Frank Andrews, Vice-President; and Evelyn J. Rice, Vice-President, Cashier.

Employees:

Sonna Carley, Becky Clingan, Connie Dawes, Pat Downing, Carolyn Howie, Rocky Jolley, Ruthanne Reardon, Dan Rice, Roger Showalter, Shirleen Warren, and Beverly Reynolds.

Today the bank stands as a \$9,000,000 institution that is striving to serve the Potomac, Armstrong, Collision, Henning communities and rural areas.

CHESTER ATCHISON

Chester Atchison was first licensed to sell insurance for State Farm Insurance Company in 1937. At that time he was residing on a farm near Rankin, Illinois.

In spring of 1947, he moved to the Potomac area. At that time, insurance business was conducted from home until spring of 1972, when the business was moved to the village. The first office in Potomac was next to Curtis Barber Shop on the east side where the late Ben Behimer had conducted insurance business until his death.

After a few years at this location, opportunity arose to rent the telephone building where the central office had formerly been. One more year will round out 40 years in the insurance business.

I feel that the Potomac area is a good place to live and hope to continue a long time yet!



POTOMAC EQUIPMENT COMPANY

About the turn of the century, Fred Duncan & Chas. Jester started the business known as Duncan & Jester at 41 State Street, on the south side.

About 1907, Claude Duncan came into the business and it became known as Duncan Bros. They sold McCormick Deering tractors starting about 1916, as well as hardware, wagons, buggies and making their own harness. They continued in business until 1952, when they sold out to Jack Prillaman. It then became known as Jack W. Prillaman Hardware & Implement. They sold International Harvester tractors & farm equipment, and in 1961 also sold Ford cars and trucks.

In February of 1968, the buildings at 41 State Street burned. The business was then incorporated into Potomac Equipment Co. and moved to 42 Vermilion into what was at one time the old livery stable.

In 1973, they purchased the old empty hotel or apartment building just north of them known at various times as the Batey Place or Taylor or Behimer. They tore it down and put up a new storage building on the lot. At the present time, they sell and service International Harvester tractors and machinery as well as some hardware.

ALEXANDER INSURANCE AGENCY

A youthful Curtis Alexander came to Potomac in 1920 to assume teaching and coaching responsibilities at the high school. A native of tiny Eminence, Indiana, the 21 year old Alexander had already held teaching positions at Gosport and Lewisville, Indiana.

During his 16 basketball seasons at Potomac, Alexander guided his teams to an over-all winning percentage of 78%. He was the first coach in Vermilion County to win 4 consecutive regional tournaments (1933-36).

In 1921, Alexander married Ola Taylor, a Potomac native. Their only child, Robert Lee Alexander

taught at Williamsville, Illinois for 5 years; acted as instrument instructor at Chanute Air Force Base for 1 year; served as Wellington High School principal for 7 years; and was principal for 4 years at Unity Senior High School at Tolono, Illinois.

After the untimely death of Ola in 1945, Alexander married Hilda Roodhouse of Jacksonville, Ill., in 1947. Their 2 children were christened John and Julia.

In 1953, after devoting 35 years to education, Alexander returned to Potomac and purchased an insurance agency from Elmer Moreland, who was failing in health. The agency was originally estab-

lished in 1879 by J. B. Payne, and later, Moreland bought into the agency. The agency was located upstairs in the old Stone building on the north side of State Street.

After purchasing the agency, Alexander moved into the Charles Jester building south of the Grab-It-

Here Store. In 1966, the offices were moved next door south to the Miller house at 105 S. Vermilion Street.

Alexander's son John joined the firm in 1975, after completing college. Julia is now a Junior at the University of Illinois.

REEVES CAFE

At one time there was a two-story brick building east of the present florist shop to the alley west of Paul Burroughs locker and grocery. This building was owned by W. E. Stone.

This building was bought by Jack Prillaman who had it torn down in 1959, and now uses the lot to display farm machinery. Mr. & Mrs. Hobart Reeves started their restaurant in the 2 rooms on the ground floor on the east end of this above-mentioned building on Saturday, May 22, 1944. These rooms, as far back as I can remember, had always been used as a restaurant. I bought equipment and stock from Mr. & Mrs. Carol Hammond who operated the restaurant for about a year back in the rationing days.

Previous owners were: Louis Pinno, Cleo Tennyson, Claude Tennyson, Clint Crouch, Fred Tayloy and Clifford Bush. We operated the restaurant in the above-mentioned building until Sept. 12, 1955. We then moved to the northeast corner of the square now operated by Ronald Newnum and Laddie Grimes.

We rented the restaurant part of the building for 6 months, then bought the building from Arthur Reepe. The building contained 1 large 6-room apartment and 1 small 1-room apartment upstairs. The small room behind was Harry Grimes' pool hall. The large room which we had rented was the restaurant. We retired from the restaurant business on July 31, 1970.

The building was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Wilson Morgan. Mr. & Mrs. Morgan opened August 1, 1970.

Ours was the first restaurant that had pressure water in town in 1945. It was a pump installed by Orge Borror.

When we first opened the restaurant, our cooks were as follows: the late Sylvia Magruder, the late Emma Reynolds (grandmother of Don Reynolds), Edith Hall, the late Mary Reeves, my mother, the late Ella Creighton, and the late Carrie Keller. They were plain old-fashioned country cooks who contributed to the success of our restaurant business.

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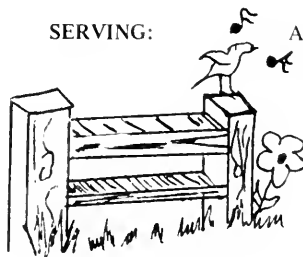
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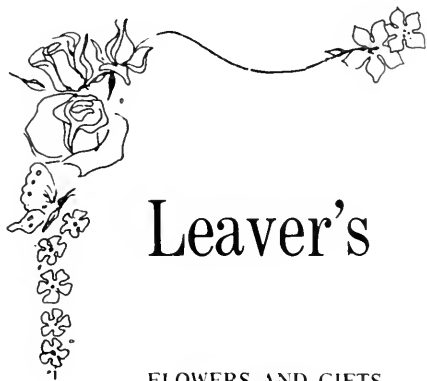
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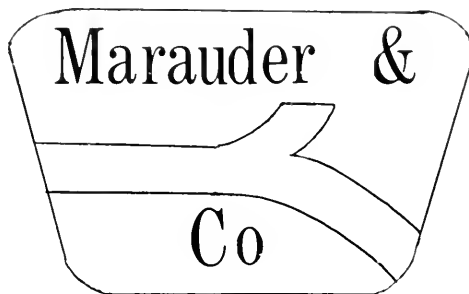
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